**BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024**

**Due: May 31, 2024**

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| **Branch:** | Grand Junction |
| **President:** | M. Jane Fitzgerald | **Date: May 23, 2024** |  |
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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.).* |
| Our branch does not normally do any planning toward setting specific goals to align with a National Plan. Our planning usually is just to set up meetings which would interest our members and strive toward increasing membership. |
| **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.* |
| At our November program we learned about the All-Women’s Fire Crew which is a partnership between BLM and the Western Colorado Conservation Corps aimed at diversifying the historically male-dominated industry. It is a 10-month program that enables young women to become wildland firefighters.At our January program we visited the non-profit Riverside Education Center which provides Mesa County students with high-quality academic and extracurricular experiences during out-of-school time to foster individual growth and to create community.In March we visited La Plaza which is a non-profit organization that supports the health and well-being of migrant and immigrant communities in Mesa County. They try to remove obstacles and provide support so that their members (men & women) may enjoy the best quality of life. |
| **Economic Security***Ensuring livelihoods for women.* |
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| The speaker for our October meeting was the President of the Mesa Valley Education Association….the union organization for teachers in School District 51.In September we visited the Food Bank of the Rockies to learn about their food out-reach programs….which topic has an element of economic security for women. |
| **Leadership***Closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities.* |
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| Our branch does to try to have programs that highlight strong women business leaders or non-profit organization leaders. In September we met with Olivia, a young woman who is the Food Bank’s Community Engagement Coordinator; in October with Amy Sue the President of MVEA; in January with 2 young women Program Managers of the Riverside Education Center; in February with Amber, a young women who is the Program Coordinator or St Marys Community Connections; in March we met with Nelly a young Latina who came to the US at the age of 12 and after getting her education is now the Executive Director of La Plaza; and at our May meeting enjoyed a Chautauqua performance by Jessica who is an expert on former 1st lady Abigail Adams. |
| **Governance & Sustainability***Ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW well into the future.* |
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| Our branch tries to incorporate programming of interest to our members to help bond the group together. We also have a monthly Coffee& Chat Interest group with suggested monthly topic. This group has proved beneficial in recruiting some new members. We did receive some publicity with articles to media about International Women’s Day in March. |

Send a copy of this report to

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And to

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