



BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Due: May 31, 2024

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| Branch: | AAUW Fort Collins Branch | | |
| President: | Barb Slattenow | Date: May 31, 2024 | |
| <p>Education & Training</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> | | |
| <p>Education and Training was the 2nd Priority in AAUW's Fort Collins Branch Strategic Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of the support for scholarships 2023-2024. 100% 2. An introduction to the uses of artificial intelligence tools in libraries, archives, museums, and education. 100% 3. Learning, educating and advocating for the inclusive use of pronouns for all. 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, 2024. 100% 6. Fort Collins Branch members as volunteer judges to represent AAUW of Colorado at the 2024 Colorado and Science & Engineering Fair at Colorado State University. 100% | | | |

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| 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> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To begin a new year on September 16 our program was the introduction of our six (6) branch scholarship recipients—Katt, Aja, Riley, Zabiba, Caroline, and Reese. Also introduction of an AAUW National International Fellowship recipient—Heidi. Each recipient shared their goals and their current studies. 2. On January 20 Karen Estlund, Dean of CSU Libraries presented how these new technologies of artificial intelligence are being used to customize experiences, increase inclusivity and access, and provide massive batch processing. Questions of ethics, bias, and how tools are designed and used lead to discussions. 3. On April 11 AAUW of Colorado was represented by Fort Collins Branch members Autumn Matsutani and Heidi Tseng as volunteer judges at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair at Colorado State University. AAUW of Colorado awards of \$250 each were given in the Junior Division to Samantha Goetz, 7th Grader at St. Peter's Catholic School, Monument and Senior Division to Amy Zhang, 9th Grader at Lakewood High School, Lakewood. 4. Our year ended with a program Pronouns on May 18. Members were able to share and discuss providing space and opportunity for people to share their pronouns does not mean that everyone feels comfortable or needs to share their pronouns. 5. Sending branch newsletters/emails with info to students, prospective members to attend in person branch meetings/webinars at the state and national level, August, 2023 to May, 2024. 6. Also registering for Virtual Fall Leadership Conference August 19, 2023 and Virtual Public Policy Day on February 3, 2024. 7. Our branch awards scholarships to students 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. | |
| <p><u>Economic Security</u> <i>Ensuring livelihoods for women.</i></p> | |
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Economic Security was the 1st Priority in AAUW's Fort Collins Branch Strategic Plan

1. Ballot Issues covering both local and state with pros, cons and budget implications. 100%
2. Resources for Mental Health. 100%
3. Art for Health and Wellness. 100%
4. Our community continuing needs for the aftermath of Covid. Our branch reaching out with donations and in volunteering in projects. 100%

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. Program on October 21 was presented by the Fort Collins League of Women Voter's Speakers Bureau that provided information on local ballot issues. Sandra Munger, our Branch Policy Chair, highlighted those state issues that are supported by AAUW of Colorado.
2. Mental Health Program on November 18 with Hali Neves, Licensed Professional Counselor delved into women and mental health. Sharing was working with adults of all ages, students or young professionals who are going through major life transitions needing support around anxiety, depression, ADHD, or overwhelming stress.
3. Program for April 18 featured two of our branch members, Mary Ellen Caldwell and Sheri Emerick. Members learned about the exciting arts and cultural scene in the region, including information on the City of Fort Collins Cultural Committee and the Fort Fund, the importance of the arts in our community and how participating in art can be a benefit to our health and wellness. Members were guided in a fun, hands-on art activity at the end of meeting.
4. Branch members were involved in matching funds for donations for the Food Bank for Larimer County and other projects to be continued in the community

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 4th priority in AAUW's Fort Collins Branch Strategic Plan

1. Encouraged members to register/attend AAUW of Colorado Virtual Fall Leadership on August 19, 2023. 100%

2. Encouraged members to register/attend Virtual Public Policy Day on February 3, 2024. 100%
3. Encouraged members to register/attend 2024 AAUW of Colorado State Conference and Annual Business Meeting on May 3-4, 2024 in Colorado Springs. 100%
4. Encourage members to vote in the AAUW National Open Membership vote. 100%
5. Contacting student members of our branch considered eligible to apply for NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Students Leaders). 100%

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1. Opportunity for all members to attend the Virtual Fall Leadership Conference on August 19, 2023.
2. Positive number of members attending Virtual Public Policy Day on February 3, 2024.
3. Open Membership Program was given by branch members on March 23 with benefits to this change.
4. Three branch members and one student member registered and attended AAUW of Colorado 2024 State Convention and Annual Business Meeting on May 3-4 in Colorado Springs.
5. Student branch members were given info and application to be considered to attend NCCWSL. No students were able to attend the 2024 NCCWSL due to internships and studies.

Governance & Sustainability

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

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Governance & Sustainability was the 3rd priority in AAUW's Fort Collins Branch Strategic Plan

1. Sustaining membership continues even 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. Setting aside a time to celebrate each other. 100%
3. Maintaining and strengthening relationships with Colorado State University and Front Range College, Fort Collins with AAUW University/College Partner. 100%

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| 4. Encouraging members to take action with AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist and contacting legislators in Colorado. 100% | |
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| <p>1. All branch meetings with programs were in person – September, 2023 to May, 2024. Branch newsletter, Barb Wire, was prepared and sent to all members, prospective members, and guests interested in joining our branch or interested in program. Communication with cards, notes, calls, texting, and emails to members not able to attend.</p> <p>2. Holiday Breakfast on December 16 was a social time of food, music, and fun for members, family members, friends, and prospective members. Student Members / Scholarship Recipients present and past shared their careers and studies for our program.</p> <p>3. Interest Groups – AAUW Book Group is active year round and other groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Summer Bridge • Happy Hour • Lunch Out • International Dinners • Taking Care of You • Out and About <p>4. AAUW University/College Partner fees were paid by Colorado State University and Front Range Community College for 2023-2024. Renewal is important for AAUW awareness.</p> | |

Send a copy of this report to
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And to
Scott Brown (boomer19@gmail.com) for Colorado Website