



# **AAUW Colorado Springs Branch**

## **September 2023 Newsletter**

**Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

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### **What's Inside**

- Co-President's Message
- STEM DAY Opportunities
- Welcome Coffee

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### **Save the Dates!**

**Saturday, September 16, 2023**

Branch Meeting: Welcome Coffee

Sunrise United Methodist

9:30-12:00 (Doors open at 9:00)

Bountiful potluck breakfast, scholarship awardees  
and the latest on interest groups. Be there!

**Please preregister by clicking on the blue rectangle.**

**Welcome Coffee  
Signup**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

AAUW's Girls STEM DAY

(No branch meeting in October so  
that members can participate in STEM DAY)

**Saturday, November 4, 2023**

Environmental Action Interest Group is happy to sponsor:

"Socially Responsible Investing: Doing well while doing good."

Panel discussion led by financial experts and moderated by our own new member,  
Marj Charlier.

Penrose House's Carriage House (9:30 Coffee, 10:00 Panel Discussion, Q & A)

[1661 Mesa Ave](#)

COS CO 80906

**Saturday, January 20, 2024**

Branch Meeting: Public Policy : Building the Bridge to Digital Equity

Broadmoor Community Church, [315 Lake Ave 80906](#)

9:30- 12:00 ( Doors open at 9:00)

Catch the buzz on the upcoming year.

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024**

DEI Program

LGBTQ Panel Discussion with representatives from Inside Out and PFlag

Hillside Community Center, [925 S. Institute St](#), COS 80903 9:30-12:00 (Doors open at

9:30-11:30 (Doors will open at 9:00)

Please save the date. More information to come later.

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.

Details tba

**Friday-Saturday May 3-4, 2024**

AAUW State Convention hosted by Colorado Springs Branch

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## Co-Presidents' Message

Hello members of the Colorado Springs Branch,

We participated in the AAUW CO Fall Leadership last month.

As Co-Presidents, we sit on the State InterBranch Council. The meeting allowed us to meet with our counterparts from other branches in the state. We were challenged to present our unique AAUW "brand". Of course, we



Brenda Wolfe and Audrey McGuire,  
Co-Presidents

emphasized our dedication to STEM and local scholarships; but we also like to think that with our strong monthly meetings and our 20-plus Interest Groups, we offer 'something for everyone'. If you have a clever description for our "Branch brand", we'd love to hear from you.

Our Branch was well represented at the conference by 10 members. National Board Chair, Julia Brown, advised that the Board will be working on a National Sustainability Plan and concentrating on Fundraising. The biggest challenge she sees facing our organization is resistance to change and our biggest strength is the camaraderie of our members and our ability to work together. Elizabeth Haynes spoke to Right-Sizing the Branch structure to ensure leadership for a sustainable future. We must be careful to avoid "burn-out" of our members with too many requirements within the leadership structure. She gave us great food for thought and emphasized that many branches are reducing the size of their Boards and aiming for heavier committee responsibilities so that members only need to commit to service for the committee activity at-hand and can support the branch as time and energy allow. We do have a large Board compared to other branches and would gladly pass on any of your suggestions for a minimized organizational structure to the Governance Committee.

In addition, our member, Ana Villazon gave a wonderful presentation on her experience at NCCWSL this year. If you wish to view it, (or any other part of the Conference) it was recorded and the video should now be available on the AAUW CO state website. <https://aauw-co.aauw.net/>

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Welcome Coffee.

Audrey and Brenda

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## **AAUW-COS Welcome Coffee**

**September 16, 2023!**

**Sunrise Methodist Church, [2655 Briargate Blvd](#)**

**[Colorado Springs, Co 80906](#)**

9:00 a.m. Doors Open

9:30 a.m. Bountiful Potluck Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Program

- *Greet Friends and Welcome New Members*
- *Catch up on Girls STEM DAY*
- *Meet our 2023-24 Scholarship Awardees*
- *Explore Interest Groups (pre and post formal program)*

Note: No regularly scheduled branch meeting in October due to our STEM event, so we hope to see you September 16 to start off our next great year of programs!

Register for free on Eventbrite **by clicking on the blue rectangle below:**

**Welcome Coffee**

## Signup

### AAUW Welcome Coffee – Interest Groups Activities

#### Greetings from Melanie Hudson, Interest Group Coordinator

As most of you know, our Branch Interest Groups (IGs) play an essential role during the annual Fall Welcome Coffee to kick off each new Branch year.

Each of our IG's are helping make sure this year's Coffee will be the **BEST EVER**. Our IG members make up a significant percentage of the attendance to each annual coffee/breakfast. That is why the IG members provide all the yummy breakfast items. Each IG Chair also provides an interestingly decorated and informative table around the perimeter of our sitting area, for new members and guests to learn about and hopefully sign up for the IGs that interest them.

In final preparation for everyone's participation at this year's Fall Welcome Coffee we need everyone's assistance in two very important areas:

- First – each individual, whether you are an IG member or not, must log into the [Eventbrite signup](#) website (link below) and let us know you, (and hopefully your guest) are attending. Participation is FREE for everyone. **Signup by clicking on the blue rectangle:**

## Welcome Coffee Signup



- Second – Attendance Request “More Is Better”.

**We need each IG member to quickly reply (Think TODAY) to your IG Chair with what food item(s) you plan to bring and the per-person quantity.**

***Again – the more FOOD the merrier!!!!***

**And again - We encourage all members to INVITE A FRIEND OR INTERESTED GUEST!**

**"The Welcome Coffee is the place to reconnect--Hope to see you there."**



All My Best, Melanie

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## Membership Matters

Dear Members.

“Reconnecting with Old Friends is Good for the Soul”. This quote has been wrongfully attributed to Shakespeare. Regardless of who said it, it’s wonderful to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends. The Interest Groups are a great way to do just that. I can’t imagine there isn’t one just for you. Books, Chocolate and Local and Southwest History to name a few. I hope to see you there.

Did you know your membership includes some discounts and perks? You can find a list at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Look for the four lines in the upper right corner then click on Membership. There you will find Discounts and Perks. You can save on insurance, travel and more. Check it out!

Reminder: RENEW your membership if you haven’t done so already! Memberships that are not paid will be void at the end of September. If you have not renewed, please go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/> and renew NOW. (Log in with your name and password, then scroll down to the Renew button.) The dues are \$107 and if you have trouble renewing online you can send a check made out to AAUW to Joan Skoog.

Lastly, I’d like to welcome a new member, Rocky Hudson. Many of you already know him because he has been a great supporter of AAUW Colorado Springs.

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, MVP

[Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com](mailto:Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com)

[719-235-7481](tel:719-235-7481)

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**Coming October 19**

**One Day Only!**

**AAUW Girls STEM DAY 2023**

AAUW Colorado Springs Girl's STEM DAY Returns Thursday, October 19 2023...And there's a role for you! Coming off the exciting Girl's STEM DAY we premiered in November 2022, AAUW has arranged with Hillside Community Center to show case our second STEM DAY. This year's event will be bigger and better than last year, with approximately 200 girls participating from four southeast and south-central Colorado Springs, and more AAUW and community volunteers ensuring they have a great experience!

### **Why is our AAUW Branch sponsoring an annual STEM DAY?**

- We hope to strengthen the opportunities for 7th grade girls to develop a love for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) subjects and to envision a career in STEM as a viable possibility.
- Women are currently woefully underrepresented in lucrative STEM fields because of societal messaging that boys are better at these subjects. We hope to raise our participating girls' awareness so that they, too, can be part of this high-paying, stimulating field.

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### **Volunteers:**

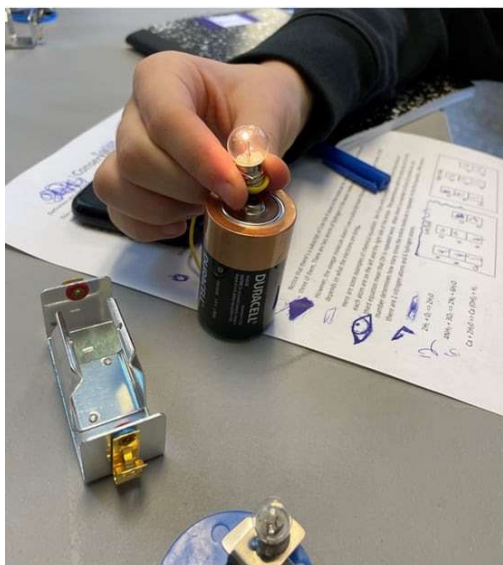
- We encourage your commitment to these 7th grade girls as they experience eye opening possibilities for a future with STEM.
- You are welcome to volunteer for more than one position.
- There's no need to volunteer for the entire day.
- Everyone who volunteers the day of the event will receive a T-shirt and lunch.

### **Positions:**

- Goodie Bag Stuffers - At least a week before the event.
- Light unloading and unpacking - At 7:30 am, Oct 19 we'll need people to unload and carry boxes of equipment into the appropriate rooms. We should be ready to greet the girls by 8:30.
- Table Monitors –Setup and cleanup experiments. Leads will do all the explaining. Should be available for practice session at Library 21C sometime during the first part of October.
- Registration - Help direct the girls getting off the busses to their correct registration tables and then pass out about 12 goodie bags.
- Box Lunch and drinks -Setup of boxed lunches and drinks at the balcony tables.
- Escorts –Lead 22 girls from the gym to one of two smaller classrooms and vice-versa.
- Clean-up. We must be out of the two classrooms by 2:15 and the gym by 2:30. The girls are scheduled to leave at 2:00. Ideally, most volunteers will be available at the end of the day to help.

**Signup by clicking on the blue rectangle:**

**Volunteer for STEM DAY**



Circuits experiment 2022

by Nancy Winston



Chemistry Experiment 2022

by Nancy Winston





## Introducing our COURTESY Co-Chairs

### Sally Metzger and Louise DeBernay

**Louise will** send cards to members or immediate family members who are experiencing difficult times, illness, or death .If you have a concern about one of our members or recognition to share, please contact Louise. [louisedebernay@msn.com](mailto:louisedebernay@msn.com) (719) 635-4172

**Sally** will send letters of appreciation to donors.

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024**

**Branch Meeting: Public Policy**

**Building the Bridge to Digital Equity**

Broadmoor Community Church

[315 Lake Ave Colorado Springs, CO 80906](#)

9:30- 12:00 ( Doors open at 9:00)

Deb Walker, Ting Community Engagement and Public Affairs Manager will lead a panel of representatives from Catholic Charities, Silver Key and Centro de la Familia. They will discuss meeting the digital needs of members of their respective communities in order to equitably partake in society's daily activities and endeavors.

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## Collaboration Corner

"At What Price? Exploitation in our Supply Chains" will be the theme of the **16th Annual Human Trafficking Task Force Symposium**. As concerned citizens and consumers, it is important to be aware of the source of the goods we buy and foods we eat. Clothing, chocolate, electric car batteries - all of these often cost more than the price tags we see in stores. The symposium will look into the issues of child labor, slave labor, and human trafficking in our global supply chains. Register now for this free event, to be held on

**Saturday, October 7th, 2023**

**Boot Barn Hall**

[13071 Bass Pro Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80921](#)

<https://www.ht-colorado.org/symposium>

**League of Women Voters** Reminds us:

National Voter Registration Day | Sept. 19

With a major election year ahead of us, it's the perfect time to make sure you're ready to vote.

Get registered, find upcoming elections, and more at [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org)!

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## 2024 Great Decisions Registration Information

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Each year, the Foreign Policy Association releases a [Briefing Book](#) on the 8 most pressing global topics facing the country. Participation in the group includes reading the chapter on the topic for each meeting and watching a twenty minute [DVD](#) on the topic prior to breaking into groups for discussion. The first meeting is on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. The group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday during the months of February, March, April

and May from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Pikes Peak Library District-**East Library**. To register, please provide your email address and phone number to Jeanette Minniti at [jeanetteminniti@gmail.com](mailto:jeanetteminniti@gmail.com) or call [719-964-8333](tel:719-964-8333). **Briefing books are \$35.00.** **There is a 20% discount on Briefing books if you register by the end October.**