



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

March 2024 Newsletter

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

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Colorado Springs International Women's Day Celebration.

Our Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair Winners

Save the Date!

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Pikes Peak Women
Wine, Women and Chocolate

5:30 - 7:30

COS City Hub, 4304 Austin Bluffs

[Click Here to Register for Wine, Women and Chocolate.](#)

Saturday, April 13

Branch Annual Meeting

[Click Here to Register for April's Branch Meeting.](#)

[Click Here to Register for April's Branch Meeting.](#)



Co-Presidents' Message

CONGRATULATIONS!



At last summer's Board Retreat, we prioritized that we would "AIM for the Stars". The Colorado Springs Branch has been recognized by AAUW National as a 3-STAR Branch for our efforts to meet the goals of the Association in 2022-2023. Kudos to last year's Board for moving the Branch toward the mission. Only 9 Branches received 5 stars and 21 Branches received 4 stars. Roughly 50 Branches received 3 stars - so we are in good company - but also among the elite. Helping us to achieve these stars are our proactive programs in STEM, DEI, and Public Policy. We will continue to strive for our last two stars.

For those not familiar with the award-

Every year AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the mission

of advancing gender equity for women and girls. More details on the 5-Star Program can be found on at www.aauw.org.

HONOR YOU RIGHTS AND VOTE

The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval of the following bylaw amendment to eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

Any individual who supports AAUW's purpose of advancing equity for women and girls shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership subject to completion of such informational procedures as the Board shall establish.

We recognize, that in today's world higher education degrees are one of several paths needed to advance equity for women and girls. Professional certifications, on the job training, career technical experience and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates for ending discrimination against women.

The board recognizes that some members have strong views on the proposed change in the requirement for membership and encourages respectful debate on this important issue.

Audrey and Brenda

[Click Here for More Information on National's new Bylaw.](#)



*AAUW National Election
April 3 - May 15, 2024*

This spring AAUW members will vote on the long-standing membership requirement for joining AAUW...

To eliminate the degree requirement and create open membership for all

We encourage you to consider the options on this important issue by studying the information provided by clicking [here](#).

Look for an email from National around April 3 so you can cast your vote.

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Authors Day and Scholarship Fundraiser

Friday, November 1

STEM DAY

No March Branch Meeting

April Branch Meeting



9:30 am (Doors open at 9:00)

The Peel House

1515 N Cascade

Don't miss this stellar morning when we recognize the cluster of brilliant stars in our AAUW galaxy:

- 50-year members,
- a Names Honored Awardee,
- Past Presidents,
- Current board,
- Nominees for next year's board.

And if that's not enough star power for you, we'll have a member of the **Colorado Women's Hall of Fame** board with us to talk about the founding and importance of this organization and to share the stories of a few of the Pikes Peak Region women who have been inducted into the Hall.

Refreshments will be available to sustain us on our celestial tour.

Prepare for take-off!

[Click Here to Register for April's Branch Meeting.](#)



Map Copied from Bing Maps

Celebrate with the Colorado Springs Branch at our Annual Business meeting. Activities include:

- Networking
- Hear from a Colorado Women's Hall of Fame Inductee
- Discover the 23-24 Names Honored Awardee
- Vote on the 23-24 Officers

Slate for April, 2024 Business Meeting and Vote

2024 – 2025 Board Proposed AAUW BOARD Slate:

PRESIDENT ELECT: Joan Skoog

TREASURER: Robin Depies

**PROGRAMS Co-CHAIRS: 1. Schon Beechler
2. Gayle Krzemien**

(COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Marilyn Frydrych continues.)

*Upon election approval, at the **AAUW April 13th Annual Branch Business Meeting** (all members attend), the above hard-working individuals will be giving their time and effort to our AAUW Branch for the year July 1, 2024 – July 1, 2025. We thank them for stepping up!*

*The **Nominations Committee** continues to seek 3 Nomination Committee candidates to replace outgoing members.*

Nominations Committee, 2024-2025:

Melanie Hudson, Vivian McWhorter (Co-Chairs)

Jan Jones

Marian Phelps

Kate Meyer Olson

Louise DeBernay

Thanks to our great committee!

Melanie Hudson – Nominations Committee Chair

AAUW State Convention in Colorado Springs

Have you Heard? Our Branch is hosting the State Convention here in Colorado Springs, May 3 and 4th.

And your participation is essential to making it a success!

Check out what's in store and plan to register for Friday evening at the Peel House and Saturday at The Antlers. Then go to the volunteer survey and let us know how you can help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR STATE CONVENTION -MAY 3-4, 2024

It takes a village to host a State Convention. Please review the list of tasks in the attached survey and sign-up to assist.

Thanks - Cindi Zenkert-Strange , Convention Host Chair

Volunteer Survey

AAUW of Colorado 2024 State Convention



Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias

The Antlers Hotel
Colorado Springs, Colorado
May 3-4, 2024

Join us **Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM at the Antlers Hotel, in downtown Colorado Springs as we explore Women in Leadership: Barriers and Bias.** You won't want to miss this full day of dynamic speakers, robust discussion and opportunities to interact with fellow AAUW members!

- How has the rise of women's leadership in business, the military, academia, government, and nonprofits changed these institutions for good?
- Why/where are there still leaks in the leadership pipeline?
- How can we navigate/eliminate barriers and bias?

And there's more!

Choose to arrive on **Friday, May 3 to join us for the evening Pre-Conference at the historic Peel House**, just a short and easy drive from **The Antlers**. And don't forget to make hotel accommodations if staying overnight. See the Pre-Conference and hotel accommodation boxes below for additional information.



Rebecca Love Kourlis
CO Supreme Court Justice
1995 - 2006



Brigadier Gen. Linell Letendre
AFA Dean of Faculty



Julia Brown
AAUW Board Chair



Dr. Pam Shockley-Zalabak
UCCS Chancellor & Professor
Emerita

Friday Evening Pre-Conference

Friday, May 3, 2024, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM



The Peel House

1515 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs
Short driving distance from The Antlers

Enjoy delectable small bites and libations and great conversation as we open our exploration of Women in Leadership, with a look at the forgotten women of STEM. You'll find their stories thrilling, tragic, frustrating, and inspiring, but always fascinating!

Our guide for this casual evening will be Jessy Randall, published poet and author of *Mathematics for Ladies*.

Hotel Accommodations

The Antlers, a Wyndham Hotel
4 S. Cascade, Colorado Springs



- Members are responsible for making reservations for overnight accommodations.
- Overnight Accommodations: \$139 plus taxes
- Overnight Parking: \$10, in and out privileges
- Day Parking: Free for those attending Saturday only
- Breakfast available at hotel, not included in price
- Check-in after 3:00 pm Friday, May 3

Deadline for Hotel Accommodations: April 26, 2024

Note: Those needing an accessible room, or those who would like to extend their stay, pre or post-conference, should call the Antlers Reservation line at 719-955-5600 and reference the AAUW Conference to receive the conference room rate. Also, contact the hotel if you require an earlier check in.

Sign up to Stay at the Antlers



Pikes Peak Women invites you to...

WINE, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE

HONORING & CELEBRATING HEROINES
OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 20
5:30 - 7:30 PM



COS CITY HUB
4304 AUSTIN
BLUFFS PKWY.

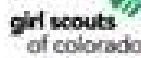
Featuring wine from local distributors, chocolate delicacies and, most importantly, the women who lead our community

BUY YOUR \$25 TICKET ONLINE!

Presented by:



In partnership with:



[Click Here to Register for Wine, Women and Chocolate.](#)

NATIONAL AAUW Publishes Newly Created Civility Policy

AAUW National provided their newly created Civility Policy on their last DEI Webinar, Jan 5, which can be found on their website.

The Board of Directors developed this new policy in anticipation of possible contention with the proposed change in our bylaws, i.e. opening the membership to people who are non-degred.

Also, it takes into account other polarized views, some of which prevail in our country at this time.

As branches are affiliates to the State and National Organizations, we adhere to the rights and responsibilities of civility which serve to govern our conduct at our meetings, as well as all AAUW member interactions.

The Webinar and National Website have provided the tools and methods of implementing this policy. It includes seeking to understand other's perspectives in order to keep the conversation going, foster mutual respect and find common ground.

Our branch fulfills this mission and vision with excellent programming and activities throughout the year.

Below is the link to this new policy, which we will adopt, in our working rules, assuring us all of our highly valued camaraderie.

Audrey McGuire, Co President

[Click Here to View National's New CIVILITY Policy.](#)

Membership Matters

Dear Members,

March is women's history month. Many powerful women have shaped our nation. AAUW works to build a world where the dreams and goals of all women and girls can be achieved.

This month we are welcoming a new member, **Nancy Long**, to our branch. Nancy previously belonged to a branch in Denver. She now lives in Colorado Springs and is interested in all we have to offer.

Spring is going to be very busy for our branch. Please participate and contribute to our upcoming meetings and events.

Suzanne Baldwin Kraus, Membership VP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

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



Lindy Conter

Photo submitted by Meghan Conter

League of Women Voters Honors AAUW member Lindy Conter at their February Meeting

Lindy Conter, AAUW member, was one of 8 honorees celebrated at the League Of Women Voter's 104th birthday event. Among the AAUW attendees were **Nancy McCaffrey, Char Gagne, Anna Lopez, Audrey McGuire and Crystal Stebbins.**

Please read a description of this award written by **Lindy's** daughter, Meghan Conter.

Lindy Conter was honored as a community leader in the Pikes Peak Region by the League of Women Voters! This is not my Mom's first award as a volunteer making a difference in the community that ripples out into the world!

Her life has been dedicated to the betterment of the lives of women and children and she has made an epic difference through her work at the Women's Foundation, the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Women's Resource Agency, AAUW, establishing the GirlSTEM program at UCCS, teaching ESL, CPCD head Start program, the Mary Lou Makepeace Foundation, and as the founder of Pikes Peak Women. She is far more comfortable shining the light and passing the mic to others, and, we are incredibly proud and glad she was recognized with this award, She did an excellent job receiving the praise even though the requirement to dance up to the stage made us all quite reticent 😊. I won't ever forget our "3 person conga line"!

Public Policy

Below are links to the current status of Colorado State legislative bills.

Betty Griner, Public Policy Director

[Click here for AAUW State's Summary of State Bills](#)

[Click Here for Current State Legislative Bills](#)

Summary of February Branch Meeting on DEI



Audrey McGuire Introducing Diversity Panel

Photo by **Kate Meyer Olson**



L to R: Danette Tritch, Liss Smith, Dara Hoffman, Stoney Roberts, Mallory Everhart

Photo from PFLAG Newsletter

AAUW Colorado Springs organized a panel on "Our LGBTQIA2+ Community: Facts, Challenges, Support" on February 17th. The Reverend Mallory Everhart of Vista Grande Community Church moderated the panel.

Liss Smith of Inside Out Youth Services talked about the connectedness that Inside Out fosters and said that being connected is the single best protective factor for young people in the LGBTQIA2+ community.

Dara Hoffman of Community Health Partnership talked about the importance of accessible healthcare for the LGBTQIA2+ community. She pointed out that 61% of those in El Paso County who seek gender affirming care are unable to access it at this time.

Stony Roberts of PRISM Community Collective discussed access to mental health care via PRISM.

Danette Tritch of PFLAG, a straight mom of an LGBTQIA2+ daughter, covered the importance of straight individuals' support of the LGBTQIA2+ community. She thanked AAUW for providing an excellent opportunity for these leaders to educate the community about their vital work and experience the synergy than an event like this generates.

Collaboration Corner

International Women's Day hosted by Zonta

March 2, 2024



L to R: **Crystal Stebbins, Kathy Olson, Joan Skoog, Marilynn Hanlon, Marilyn Frydrych, Audrey McGuire, Betty Griner, Lorena Wilder, Cindi Zenkert-Strange, Robin Depies.**

Photo by **Kate Meyer Olson**

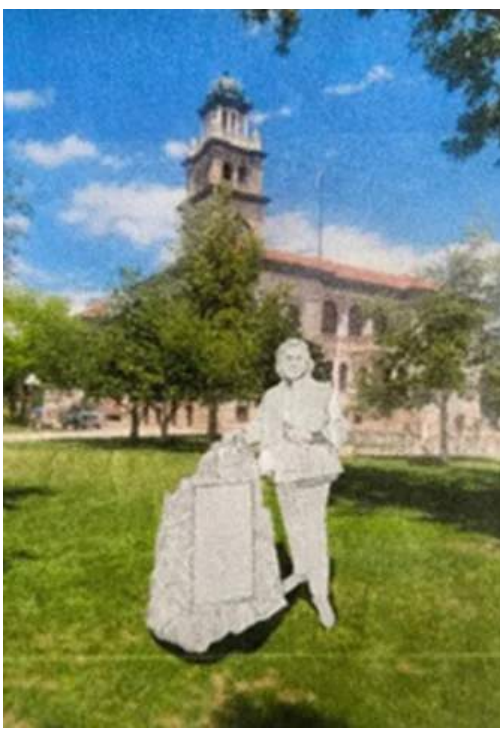


Lauren Hug from Hugspeak, one of three presenters. Lauren had been part of our January panel discussion on Digital Equity.

MARY LOU MAKEPEACE FOUNDATION

[MARY LOU MAKEPEACE FOUNDATION](#) – For Women Who Made Colorado Springs. A project to build a statue of Mary Lou Makepeace on the Pioneer Museum grounds. The bronze statue is designed by Lori Kiplinger Pandy and celebrates Makepeace's contributions to civic engagement, women's empowerment, and equality. Makepeace is the only female mayor of Colorado Springs.

Click the button below to learn more.

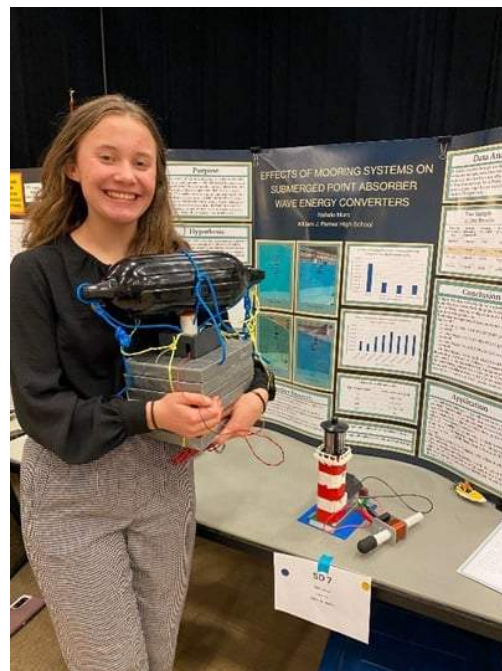


[Click here for Mary Lou Makepeace Foundation.](#)

Pikes Peak Regional Science Fair – 2024



Cameron Kempisty's Display
Eagleview Middle School



Natalie Muro
Palmer High School

The AAUW Colorado Springs Branch rewarded two female scientists for their efforts at the 2024 Pikes Peak Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The Fair is slowly rebounding from the pandemic and there were twice as many participants as last year at this event at UCCS on Sat. Feb 24th. Sustainable energy was certainly a hot topic again this year -covering solar, wind, water, and biomass. AAUW recognized participants at both the senior high and middle school levels. Award winners were seventh-grader, Cameron Kempisty, from Eagleview Middle School and Palmer High

School sophomore, Natalie Muro. The winners each received a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Miss Kempisty 's experiment, entitled "To Grow or Not to Grow: Testing Biomass-based Materials for a Greener World", investigated the effects of several different types of biomass (such as ground pistachio shells) products in soil on the growth of plants. She compared the plant growth between these biomass products and conventional fertilizer. Her hypothesis was correct that plants in soil with PAF + BioChar additive were able to germinate faster and also required less water to remain healthy. These products can help farmers have higher yields while being environmentally-friendly.

In "Effects of Mooring Systems on Submerged Point Absorber Wave Energy Converters", Miss Muro expanded on last year's project by testing if there is a correlation between mooring configurations and the amount of consistent electricity a submerged wave energy converter can produce. She designed and built her own mooring and produced energy that lit a Lego lighthouse. The data collection did not support her original hypothesis as it was shown that only one mooring yielded 206% more energy than was produced by the other more restrictive designs. Energy production from submerged devices is a real world application that is sustainable, efficient and does not impact ocean views.

The Science Fair remains a crucial outlet for young ladies to demonstrate their science capabilities and garner confidence and recognition. The pictures above illustrate the amount of work these ladies put into the projects. We also learned about iron deficiency in female athletes, trapping bark beetles to save forests, training fish to play ball, and how quasars **may** create "dark stars" - to name a few.

---**Brenda Wolfe**, Co-President

Interest Groups

Melanie and Rocky Hudson, Co-Ordinator's

Visual Arts IG

The Visual Arts Interest Group traveled to the Denver Art Museum February 20. We toured the All Stars Exhibit of American Artists. We then visited the Charlie Russell exhibit of art pieces that were displayed at the Brown Palace Hotel in 1921.



Claire Drozd, Nancy Winter, Cheryl Cable, Sherri Bristol, Kathy Olson, Char Gagne, Debbie Humphrey, Margaret Nestor, Sue Neufeld, Robin Depies, Ellie Bursaw, and Betty Griner.

Photo and article by **Jan Zellmer**

Listing of Interest Groups

Various Days in the week/month

ARTS ON THE GO, BRIDGE LIGHT

Mondays

HARDY HIKERS, BOOKS TO FILMS

Tuesdays

DINNER BOOK CLUB, GREAT DECISIONS (Current World Events), MORNING GLORIES BOOK CLUB, READERS' POTPOURRI, TECHNOLOGY, VISUAL ARTS

Wednesdays

AFTERNOON READERS, CHOCOLATE LOVERS, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (EA), LUNCHEON NOVEL 1, LUNCHEON NOVEL TOO, SOUTHWEST STUDIES

Thursdays

CHAPTER & VERSE WRITING GROUP, TED TALKS, WALKIE-TALKIE HIKES, WOMEN WHO WRITE

Fridays

EXPLORING LIVES AND CULTURES, LOCAL HISTORY

Fridays or Saturdays

FELLOWSHIP OF THE GRAPE (FOG)

For those who would like more information about interest groups click below:

[Click Here for More Information on Interest Groups.](#)

**American Association of
University Women**

4660 Adieu Cir, Colorado Springs
United States of America



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