



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

February 2025 Newsletter

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

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Save the Date!

February 15

Environmental Branch Meeting

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM (doors open at 9:30 AM)

UCCS Downtown Facility, 102 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

[Click here to register for the February Branch Meeting](#)

March 8

International Women's Day

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Colorado Springs Marriott

5580 Tech Center Dr.

[Click here to register for International Women's Day](#)

April 12, 2025

2025 Annual Meeting

Election of Officers 2025-2026

Honoring 50 years plus members

Doors open 9:30 AM Program from 10:00 AM to 12 PM

Place: Bethel Lutheran Church

4925 Farmingdale Drive 80917

May 3, Saturday

Author's Day

9:30 AM to Noon


Broadmoor Community Church

315 Lake Avenue



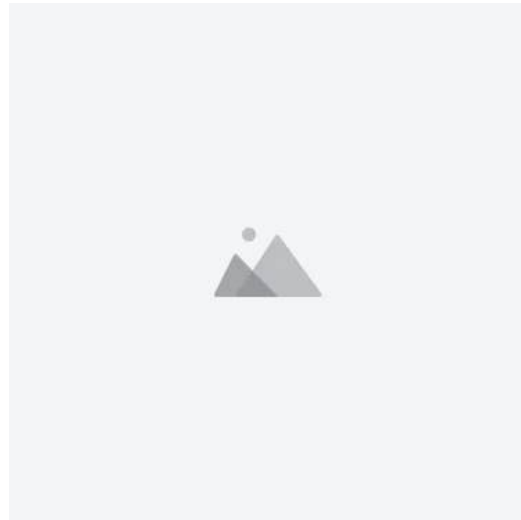

President's Message

Happy February! I am looking forward to our next meeting on the 15th, discussing the Opportunities and Challenges of Local Recycling and Environmental Preservation Efforts. This will educate the members on how to lead a positive change in our community. We will have three panel experts who will be discussing what they have learned in their careers, key facts, how to serve our growing community and how other areas have been successful at addressing these issues. We will also be collecting items for Hope Bags for the Human Trafficking Task Force-if you are interested in donating items, please bring them to the meeting. The needs are below:

 **RECLAIMING HOPE**

January 2025 Hope Bag Needs

<u>General Items</u>	<u>Clothing Items</u>
<u>Stuffed Animals</u>	Adult Male Pants (Size S, L, XL, 2XL)
Hairbrushes	Adult Female Pants (Size L, 2XL)
<u>Journals</u>	Adult Male Hoodies (Sizes S, L, XL, 2XL)
<u>Adult Male Slider Sandals</u>	Adult Female Hoodies (Size M, L, 2XL)
<u>Adult Female Slider Sandals</u>	Adult Male Underwear (Size S, M, L, XL, 2XL)
<u>Blankets (50 inches by 60 inches)</u>	Adult Female Boys short Under wear (Size 6-9)
Female Deodorant	Adult Sports Bras (Size S, M, L, XL, 2XL)
<u>Hand Sanitizer</u>	Adult Male T-Shirts - <u>S, M, L, XL, 2XL</u>
<u>Travel Shampoo</u>	
<u>Travel Conditioner</u>	
<u>Travel Bodywash</u>	
Travel Lotion	



Underlined items are most needed on this list

Email Abby@reclaiming-hope.org or call (719) 425-9405

to arrange to drop off donations.

Thank you to everyone who attended our DEI meeting discussing Youth Homelessness in our area. This has spurred conversation on how we can be more involved in our

community. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me and let me know, we would love to be more involved and appreciate any information, advice or input!

March brings International Women's Day, sponsored by Zonta Club of Pikes Peak Area-which will be celebrated on Saturday, March 8th from 8a-4:30p at the Colorado Springs Marriott. The theme this year is Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress! The event is an all-day conference packed with insights, connections and breakthroughs. There will be two speakers and six breakout sessions to attend.

We are also looking for a few good women (and men)! If anyone is interested in serving as a member of the board or executive committee, please reach out to Rocky Hudson or myself. We have a few positions opening:

- VP of Memberships
- Secretary
- President-Elect

If you are not interested in serving in a single capacity, bring a friend, co-positions always add more fun!

Thank you,

Crystal Stebbins

President

February Branch Meeting

February 15, 2025

10:00 AM – 12:00 AM (doors open at 9:30 AM)

Location: UCCS Downtown Facility, 102 S. Tejon Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Panel discussion: "Opportunities and Challenges of Local Recycling and Environmental Preservation Efforts: How AAUW Members Can Help Lead Positive Change in Our Community"



Join us for an expert panel presentation and conversation to understand the opportunities and challenges facing organizations and individuals in helping to preserve our precious environment.

Members wishing to attend must register through Eventbrite using the link below or click on the green button.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/support-local-recycling-and-environmental-preservation-tickets-1133089072919?aff=oddtcreator>

Please Note: Seating is limited to 50 participants

[Click here to register for the February Branch Meeting](#)

.In the first part of the program, we will hear from three expert panelists:

- **Kathy Andrew**, Division Manager, El Paso County, heading the Community Services Department, Colorado Conservation Assistance Network
- **Ryan Beland**, operations manager for Republic Services in Cañon City. He operated Tri-Lakes Disposal in northern El Paso County with his father from 1997 to 2020 when they sold their family-owned business to GFL
- **Jerry Cordova**, A geographer by trade, Jerry Cordova, is a specialist for the Stormwater Enterprise of the City of Colorado Springs, doing public outreach and education about where our water comes from, the importance of conservation and our natural resources, and why protecting the water we use is vital

Our panelists will speak about

1. lessons learned across their careers and how these lessons can educate and empower us to make a difference in our community,
2. what key facts we all need to understand to be good stewards of our environment beyond recycling.

Then the panelists will discuss recycling and other avenues to protect our environment related to:

1. how they expect to continue to serve our growing community,
2. actions they are interested in promoting, and
3. ways other states, communities, and individuals are successfully addressing these issues.

Finally, they will suggest where and how community members can get involved and be part of the sustainability efforts they propose. A question-and-answer session will follow.

Parking may be a challenge downtown. CU has provided a flyer on parking possibilities. The flyer's link is: <https://downtown.uccs.edu/parking-transportation> or just click on the green button below. Please consider ride sharing.

[Click here for CU's Parking Flyer](#)

March Meeting



ZONTA
CLUB OF
PIKES PEAK AREA
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Colorado Springs International Women's Day Conference

Saturday, March 8, 2025
8:00am - 4:30pm
Colorado Springs Marriott

[Click here to register for International Women's Day](#)

Membership Matters

Frequently I have heard members complaining about not being able to access the AAUW National website, www.AAUW.org. Your email is necessary to sign in. If AAUW has an incorrect email that may be the problem. If you cannot gain access or are not receiving AAUW National emails, please let me know and be sure to include your correct email. I can go into the data base and make any necessary corrections.

At any time, if you have membership questions, please contact me.

Suzanne Baldwin Krauss, Membership VP

Sbaldwin101@yahoo.com

719-235-7481

Call for Names Honored Nominations

Every year at the Annual Business Meeting, we recognize an outstanding member of the branch. The Names Honored Selection Committee needs your help in selecting that member. Names Honored recipients are acknowledged by National in recognition for Branch Contributions to AAUW Funds. We raise these funds through individual donors and our King Soopers and Safeway Cards fundraising.

The selection criteria are:

- Primary consideration - Service to our branch.
- Secondary consideration - Service at the state and or national level.
- Additional consideration - Community, professional and cultural activities.

Please send your nomination to Candy Crumb at dccrumb02@aol.com

DEADLINE: Feb 28, 2025

2024/2025 Elected Officers/Executive Committee/

Board Members

President: **Crystal Stebbins**
President Elect: **Joan Skoog**
Treasurer: **Robin Depies**
Secretary: **Cindy Keeffe**
Vice President of Membership: **Suzanne Kraus**
Co-VPs of Programs: **Schon Beechler**
Marion Phelps
Co-VPs Community Outreach: **Marilyn Frydrych**
OPEN

2024/2025 Appointed Officers/Board Members

Communications Director: OPEN
Interest Group Coordinator: **Pip Bodkin**
Scholarships Chair: OPEN
Public Policy Director: OPEN
Hospitality Co-Chair: **Kathy Gutnayer**



Catania Jones, the Director of Children, Youth and Family Services for El Paso County and Becky Treece, the CEO of The Place Photo by Schon Beechler



Gifts of TP Photo by Marian Phelps



Jan Zellmer asks a question of the panel. Photo by Schon Beechler

January Branch Meeting

Understanding Youth Homelessness in Our Community

On Saturday, January 25th the DEI Committee presented a program to help us understand the issue of youth homelessness in our community. The guest speakers were Becky Treece the CEO of The Place and Catania Jones, the Director of Children, Youth and Family Services for El Paso County.

Becky Treece explained the trauma that always accompanies the action of a youth becoming homeless and what they do at The Place to try to remedy the results so that a youth can regain stability and reach their potential. At The Place they provide many services, but first they provide safe shelter. They have a big project in the works called The Launchpad. It is a 50-unit apartment building to provide long term housing and is scheduled to be opened in April. Currently the shelter they have is only available short term. The attendees of the program were encouraged to donate packages of toilet paper to be used in the welcoming packets at The Launchpad and there was great participation.

The second presenter, Catania Jones, has over 20 years of experience with various government and community agencies that work with families, children and youth and she is a source of information for The Place to make sure they are complying with the rules. She was able to speak to the many laws and regulations that come into play when working with children and youth.

Together Becky and Catania presented a compelling program and raised our awareness of this important issue and the need of community support for our youth.

Nancy Holt, DEI Co-Chair

nd is a source of information for The Place to make sure they are complying with the laws and rules. In her presentation she was able t

COMMUNITY GIVING PROGRAM

An easy way to give just by shopping!!

King Soopers and Safeway will donate a percentage of your shopping total to our Colorado Springs Branch. All funds received through these Community Giving programs are donated to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Last year we were able to give over \$1300! What a wonderful way to help our National AAUW's mission at no extra cost to you except the time to sign up or reload a card.

King Soopers:

1. Login to King Soopers web site: <https://www.kingsoopers.com>
2. Create a personal account. Select "Sign In" at the Upper Right of screen. If you already have an account proceed to step 4.
 1. First Name
 2. Last Name
 3. Email Address
 4. Create password
 5. ETC., ETC
1. Click on Account Name in upper right-hand corner of Screen. - You may have to login again with name & password if you are a new user.

2. Select My Account (upper top, right of screen) in Drop Down list
3. Select Community Rewards at bottom Left of Drop Down List.
4. Enter AAUW-Colorado Springs Branch – Organization #QB289
5. Save your selection

Safeway: To donate through your Safeway shopping, you need a rechargeable card which is supplied by Robin Depies. To receive yours please contact **Robin Depies** at 719-761-1802 or email robin@heartfeltfinancialsolutions.com. There is no charge for the card, but when you go to Safeway, you will need to go to the Customer Service counter to load whatever amount you would like on the card, then use it when shopping at Safeway. When that amount is used, take it to customer service to reload.

For every dollar spent, our branch receives between 3% & 5% depending on how much is spent each month.

Interest Groups

Environmental Action Interest Group



The last of our 1000 lb. collection of flexible plastic. Photo by Schon Beechler

We did it!

With the contributions of many of our AAUW members and other individuals and organizations in our community, including the Women's Club of Colorado and Zonta International, we met our goal! We recycled and turned in just over **1000 pounds** of plastic sheeting between February 1, 2024 and January 31, 2025. In addition to helping our environment, we will have the opportunity to place another Trex bench in our Colorado Springs community. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make this possible.

The EAIG will start another Trex plastic film collection project on March 1 and we hope that you will participate to help us collect our next 1000 pounds by the end of February, 2026. If you can, please stockpile plastic film until March 1st, rather than dropping it off at King Soopers locations in February, so we can get a running start on this next formidable 1,000 pound goal. To make it as easy as possible for you to contribute, Pam Maier and Schon Beechler will be happy to take your collected plastic, photograph it, and drop it off at King Soopers stores around Colorado Springs. You can bring any plastic you might have to our next Branch Meeting, on February 15th, where we will hear from an expert panel on the key environmental issues in our area and what we, as members, can do to help (see separate announcement and sign up link above in this newsletter).

With many thanks, as always,

Schon

[Click Here for Explanation of Acceptable Plastic Films](#)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTEREST GROUP COORDINATOR

Mahjong is Up and Running

I'm excited to announce that the first meeting of our new Mahjong group will be held from 2-4pm at Library 21C (Lower Level) Room A1 on Thursday 13th February 2025. If you aren't already signed up, there is still time. Call or email me at the info below and we can bring you into our friendly group. Experience is not required, as we have two wonderful members who have generously offered to get us started and guide us through some practice sessions.

Pip Bodkin

Interest Group Coordinator

(206) 427-2444

pipbodkin@gmail.com

Listing of Interest Groups

Various Days in the week/month

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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