



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

Aug 2025 Newsletter

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

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President's Message

Welcome Coffee Invitation

Descriptions of Branch Meetings through November

Note from National

State's Fall Leadership Conference

DEI Committee Becomes JEDI Committee

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Unfilled Positions

Save the Date!

Saturday, Aug 23

AAUW Colorado Zoom Conference

5-Star Attainment

8:45 to Noon

**Register for State Fall
Conference Here**

Saturday, September 13

Welcome Coffee

9:30 AM to noon

First United Methodist Church,
420 N Nevada Ave.

Register for Welcome Coffee Here

Friday, October 10, 2025
Public Policy Meeting on Education

11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Library 21C

1175 Chapel Hills Dr. 80920

Friday, November 7, 2025
STEM DAY

7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Hillside Community Center

925 S. Institute

Saturday, November 15, 2025
Leadership Development

11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Penrose House

1661 Mesa Ave 80906

Friday, December 5, 2025
Holiday Party

11 AM -1:00 PM

Margarita at Pine Creek

7350 Pine Creek Rd 80919

President's Message



I hope you have had a relaxing and fun summer. As summer comes to an end, we at AAUW are gearing up for an exciting and busy year. I am looking forward to seeing many of you as we kick off our new fiscal year at the Welcome Coffee in September.

At our April meeting, we had 3 of our 50-year members: **Georgina Burns**, **Candy Crumb**, and **Vivian McWhorter** talk about the history of our Branch. Did you know we were once at 400 members? In fact, Colorado Springs had a Branch 5 years before the State AAUW was organized in 1926. The State will be celebrating 100 years in 2026. More information will be coming about a special celebration next year.

This made me start wondering what is the reason to join AAUW? What do we tell others? For our ladies in 1921, it was to fight for equity for women in higher education and that is still our mission today. Did you know at one time there was a myth that college impairs a woman's fertility? To quote a 1968 ad campaign, "You've come a long way, baby!" Personally, I like the Helen Reddy song, "I am woman, hear me roar." Our job is not done, we still need you to fight for the rights of women, for our daughters and our granddaughters. Recently, there has been a full-scale attack on civil rights and higher education. What stand will you take?

Join us at our Branch meetings this year as we explore topics that impact us and ways we can respond. Marian Phelps and her committee have a full slate of interesting and engaging programs. Be sure to attend our Welcome Coffee on September 13 to hear about the difference our Branch has made in the lives of this year's scholarship recipients. Stay tuned to our newsletter and eBlasts for all the latest news.

Joan Skoog, President

Branch Meetings This Fall



AAUW -COS Welcome Coffee

September 13, 2025

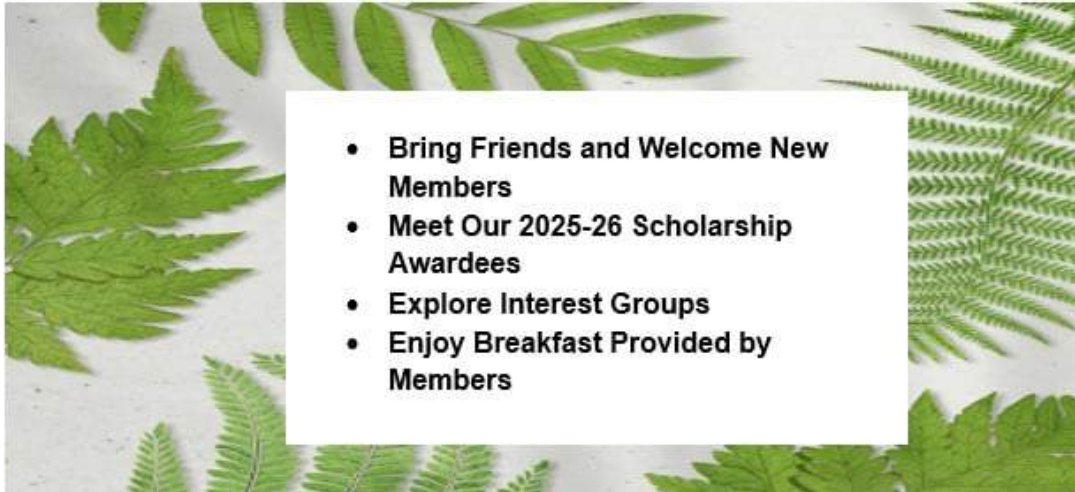
First United Methodist Church

420 N Nevada Ave.

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Doors Open 9:00 AM

Program from 9:30 AM - Noon



[Register for Welcome Coffee Here](#)



AAUW Public Policy on Education Branch Meeting

Friday, Oct 10, 2025, 11:30-2:00

Bring your lunch to Library 21C and learn!

Our Branch meeting on Oct 10 will feature **Meghan Kissell**, Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy, from our National AAUW office. **Marian Phelps** will facilitate the meeting which will include **Meghan's** presentation on zoom.

Local AAUW members along with the public are invited to attend the meeting in person at Library 21c. If you cannot attend in person, the meeting will also be available on Zoom to all interested members.

A link will be sent to you.

Below is the statement from AAUW regarding the passage of the reconciliation bill:

An Act to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14”.

“For AAUW, this is personal. We are the nation’s largest non-institutional funder of women’s graduate education. For more than 140 years, we’ve fought to open the doors of higher education to all women — not just those who can afford it. And we know the truth: **when women lose access to education, they lose access to opportunity, economic security, and equity.**”

Meghan will address:

- **Undermining educational equity**
- **Shutting women out of higher education**

AAUW will continue to be at the forefront with plans of action to support all students with attaining “full and equal access to education, civil rights and opportunity.”

Join us as we generate ideas for action that we can commit to at the local level to advance our mission for students in our community.

Marion Phelps

STEM DAY



Students from STEM DAY, October, 2023

The fourth annual STEM Day will be held **Friday, November 7 at Hillside Community Center from 7:30 to 2:00**. This year our guest experiment Bungee Dolls will be presented by UCCS’ **Lynanne George, PhD**. We’ll need 40 to 50 volunteers, so mark your calendar now. For those unable to attend on November 7th, there is still plenty to do beforehand. Since we will be asking the schools to pack the girls’ lunches this year, there will be about 10 less volunteers needed STEM DAY. However, we will absolutely try to spread out pre-STEM DAY responsibilities with as many volunteers as possible. In the past our STEM Committee has handled many responsibilities that we are ready to teach others how to accomplish.

We are also planning a second STEM day in February for forty highly-motivated 7th grade science students. Colorado Springs Utilities has agreed to set up experiments on filtration at their Mesa Road facilities and include a tour of their filtering plant, just to the south at Mesa Road and Fillmore. Our contribution will be to identify the forty girls, gain parental support for their trip, work with the science teachers to make this happen, supply lunch, and arrange bus transportation with certified chaperones.

Brenda Wolfe and Marilyn Frydrych STEM Co-Chairs

Membership Matters

Upcoming Membership Dues

Your AAUW membership is due on the anniversary date of when you joined. If your membership lapses for more than one month you have to rejoin as a new member and that anniversary date will change accordingly. **Members who joined before May 2022 have an annual renewal date in June unless they let their membership lapse**, in which case they also have to rejoin as a new member and will have a new and different annual renewal date.

The total dues for National, State, and Colorado Springs is \$109. If you do not pay all three you will not be able to participate in our branch activities. If you prefer, you can send a check payable to AAUW and mail the check to Robin Depies, 1580 Old North Gate Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. \$99 is tax deductible and please send soon so you will not get a new "start date" with AAUW.

WE HAVE 27 MEMBERS IN A GRACE OR EXPIRED STATUS.

Also, if you are interested in helping the Membership Team, we welcome you! We have a small, but mighty team of six members to date.

Thank you Suzanne, Debbie, Carolyn, and Lenore!

Please email me at elizabiz01256@gmail.com or call 719-338-6924. I would love to have a meeting in August and need to know availability!

All the best,

Elizabeth Mohan Leslie Membership VP elizabiz0125@gmail.com 719-338-6924

Public Policy and JEDI

Our AAUW branch has combined the Public Policy Committee and the DEI Committee. The new name for the DEI Committee is JEDI. This acronym stands for Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

National sent out a public policy press release right after the Reconciliation bill was passed by Congress. Following is a synopsis of the Press Release written by the Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy **Meghan Kissell**, who will be our speaker at our October Branch Meeting. Please take the time to read it in its entirety. Go to AAUW.org, scroll down to News and open Press Releases.

This bill:

- Undermines educational equity.
- Shuts women out of higher education.
- Attacks on reproductive health and health care access.

National has made it clear that we won't back down from our core values.

We plan to have a committee meeting on Wednesday, August 6 to make plans for the coming year. We usually meet mid-afternoon. Please contact one of us if you are interested in joining this committee.


Co-VP's. Public Policy-JEDI

Audrey Mc Guire audre811@gmail.com

Nancy Holt nholt300@gmail.com

News from National

As you know, AAUW is not a political or partisan organization, but that does not mean we are values neutral. We are proud to be an independent, fearless voice for equity.




Fall Leadership Conference

The 5-Star Program

"A Framework for Success"

August 23, 2025
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting with Breakout Sessions



Keynote Speaker
Tremayne Parquet
AAUW Deputy Director of Advancement

- Focuses on AAUW 5-Star Program to help guide branches toward success in alignment with AAUW's mission and priorities.
- Has supported branches with membership and fundraising initiatives
- Has overseen member support and customer service operations

Agenda

9:00 - 9:10 am	Opening Remarks and Introduction
9:10 - 9:40 am	Tremayne Parquet, AAUW Deputy Director of Advancement
9:40 - 9:50 am	Q&A
9:50 - 10:00 am	Break
10:00 -10:35 am	Breakout Session #1
10:35 -11:10 am	Breakout Session #2
• For each breakout session, participants select one of 5 rooms dedicated to a 5-star category	
11:10 -11:50 pm	Breakout Session Debrief and Discussion
11:50 -12:00 pm	Summary and Closing Remarks

**Register for State Fall
Conference Here**

Please note that this meeting is open to all state and branch members and we encourage everyone to attend. We will open the zoom meeting at 8:40 am to allow participants to sign in early and verify that they have audio and video. We encourage all participants to do so.

Once the meeting starts, we will not be able to assist individual participants.

Courtesy Coordinator

Did you know that **Louise Debernay** is our lady in charge of sending cards to members or immediate family members who are experiencing difficult times, illness or death? If you have any news of any members we should contact, please contact Louise at louisedebernay@msn.com

The following positions remain unfilled.

Any assistance in filling these roles is appreciated as vacancies mean work doesn't get done or they increases the responsibilities of current Board members. For further information or to express interest, please contact Joan Skoog.

Local Scholarship Chair—Facilitate the work of the scholarship committee. A full calendar of responsibilities and committee are in place.

Assistant to the Treasurer—Be available to be the back-up to our current Treasurer, Robin Depies. Knowledge of Excel required.

Website Administrator Assistant—Work with our current website administrator to learn the job and be willing to assume the responsibility next year. (Our current website administrator, Lorena Wilder will be the president next year.)

submitted by **Joan Skoog**

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy and love to the following members who have lost loved ones recently:

Janet Knox on the passing of her mother on June 28. A celebration of life will be held Friday, September 19, 2025, at 1:00 pm at MacKenzie Place, 1605 Elm Creek <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/colorado-springs-co/ella-butts-12439877>

Jan McKenzie on the passing of her husband, Mike. His memorial mass was held on July 31st. at St. Patrick Catholic Church. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/-colorado-springs-co/michael-mckenzie-12457359>

Janet Geisz on the passing of her husband, Gil on July 19. Gil's celebration of life was held on July 30 at Ft. Logan National Cemetery. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/colorado-springs-co/gilbert-geisz-12462479>

Readers Needed

We need YOU to help select the book and author for next year's Authors Day. It's as easy as reading a book and giving your recommendation on whether it is the type of book and author you would invite to introduce to the rest of the members. There would be 3-4 meetings during the year. If interested, contact **Joan Skoog** at joanskoog1@gmail.com.

Interest Groups

Connie Miles, Marilynn Hanlon, Marion Rich, Jeanne Koss, Char Gagne, Jan Zellmer

Photos by Marilyn Frydrych



Yarrow, Buttercups and Daisies, Bee on Thistle, Black Eyed Susans

Photos by Jeanne Koss

Walkie-Talkies at Women's Trail July 31

We were joined by long-time companion, Marion Rich, who moved to South Carolina to be with her family about three years ago. As a result of the recent rains the wildflowers were gorgeous.

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, MAHJONG

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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