



AAUW Colorado Springs Branch

Sept 2025 Newsletter

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

What's Inside

President's Message

Welcome Coffee Invitation

Descriptions of Branch Meetings through December

STEM Sign-ups

2025/26 Board Picture

Featured Interest Group EAIG

Save the Date!

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.

Register for Lunch and Learn Here

Friday, November 7, 2025

STEM DAY

7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Hillside Community Center

925 S. Institute St.

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Women United for Leadership and Impact

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Penrose House

1661 Mesa Ave.

Friday, December 5, 2025

Holiday Party

11 AM -1:00 PM

Margarita at Pine Creek

7350 Pine Creek Rd.

**President's
Message**





No matter what the language, welcome is always a way we greet someone in a glad and friendly way. I love that we come together each September for our Annual Welcome Coffee - a chance to see old friends and reach out a hand of welcome to our new members who have joined throughout the year. As we greet our new members, let us also recommit to our mission **to advance gender equity for girls**

supporting scholarships for women. I have always been impressed by the quality of the scholarship winners who have joined us at our Welcome Coffee and shared their stories and their dreams. At the same time, I am saddened by the issues facing higher education for women today. We must continue to advance equity for women. Come, be involved in AAUW this year and help make a difference. Join one of our committees, volunteer at upcoming events such as the STEM workshop or mentor a scholarship recipient—your involvement can help shape a brighter future for women and girls.

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
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."

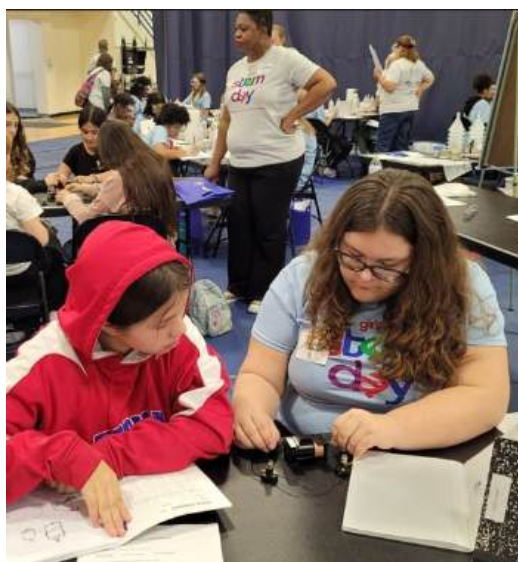
Join us as we generate ideas for action that we can commit to at the local level to advance our mission for students in our community.

Nancy Holt and Audrey McGuire, Public Policy Chairpersons

To register copy and paste: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-public-policy-on-education...>

or click on button below

Register for Lunch and Learn Here



Students from STEM DAY, October, 2023

STEM DAY

Needed -- 20 members to donate a Barbie Doll or two for Bungee Barbie experiment. May be returned if need be.

The fourth annual STEM Day will be held **Friday, November 7 at Hillside Community Center from 7:30 to 2:00**. You may sign up to help at the September 13 Welcome Coffee at the STEM table. Signups will be on a first come, first served basis. You are the ones who will make this event successful.

Volunteer positions

Pre- Nov 7

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| • Print colored labels | 4 hours | Your home |
| • Fill vials for chem experiment | 2 to 3 hours | Hillside Community Center |
| • Make signs | 5 hours | Your home |
| • Purchase snacks | 2 hours | Costco, Sams |

Nov 7 at Hillside Community Center

Adult registration	5	7:20 – 9:15
Student registration	16	9:00 – 9:40
T-Shirt Distribution	2	9:15 – 9:40
Go-fer	1	All day
Group Guides	9	8:30 – 2:00
Circuit helpers	18	7:30 – 2:00 includes training from 8 - 9
Chemistry helpers	18	7:30 – 2:00 includes training from 8 - 9
Lunch	2	10:45 – 12:00

Brenda Wolfe and Marilyn Frydrych STEM Co-Chairs

Left to right: Robin Depies, Treasurer; Elizabeth Leslie, Membership; Brenda Wolfe, Communication; Pip Bodkin, Interest Groups; Kathy Gutnayer, Hospitality; Marian Phelps, Programs; Char Gagne, Secretary; Nancy Holt, Public Policy/JEDI Co-Chair; Joan Skoog, President (not pictured Lorena Wilder, President Elect; Audrey McGuire, Public Policy/Jedi; Crystal Stebbins, Community Outreach).

Photo by Marilyn Frydrych

Membership Matters

All members who have joined in the past year will be invited to a Wine and Cheese Party in September at the home of Joan Skoog. Watch for your invitation!

A prospective member may go one time to each of two groups before being required to join AAUW. **Our Interest Group Chair has clarified the Branch Working Rules and Policies contains a clear policy on this.**

Elizabeth Mohan Leslie Membership VP elizabeth0125@gmail.com 719-338-6924

AAUW Year End Financials For Year Ending June 30, 2025

We ended the fiscal year in good financial shape spending \$536.36 less than our income. Our membership income is more than budgeted. Most of our operating income is generated through our Branch dues and an occasional donation to our General Fund. We did get a \$500 donation for our General Fund from Thrivent thanks to **Joan Skoog**. Thank you, Joan. We had a successful Author's Day which netted us \$11,659.11. Through the Kroger and Safeway programs, we were able to donate \$1,032.84 to the National AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Below is the detailed financial statement.

Submitted by Robin Depies, Treasurer

AAUW Budget for 2025 - 2026

Below is a link to our approved budget for this fiscal year based on 170 members. The first part of the income is the operating budget. The second half of the income is totally dependent on donations and funds raised, what we call pass through accounts.

The same is for the expenses.

Copy and paste this link to view the 2025 - 2026 Budget

[AAUW-Budget-approved-2025-2026.pdf](#)

Copy and paste this link to view the 2024 - 2025 Financial Report

<https://coloradosprings-co.aauw.net/files/2025/08/AAUW-24-25...>

or

[Click Here to View the 2025 - 2026 Budget](#)

[Click Here to View the 2024 - 2025 Financial Report](#)

Doing Good Through Shopping!

Yes, ladies, your shopping at King Soopers & Safeway resulted in our being able to give \$1,032.84 last year to the AAUW National Greatest Needs fund. The Greatest Needs Fund allows AAUW to use the funds where they are most needed to respond rapidly, through communications and advocacy, to critical issues as they emerge.

What a wonderful way to help our National AAUW's mission at no extra cost to you except the time to sign up or purchase a reloaded card. If you haven't signed up yet, here's all you must do:

KING SOOPERS – go to <https://www.kinsoopers.com/i/community--rewards> to enroll. Link your King Soopers Loyalty Card by choosing AAUW-Colorado Springs Branch – Organization #QB289 – as your charitable organization.

SAFEWAY – you can receive a card by simply asking our treasurer, Robin Depies. When you go to Safeway, go to customer service and load whatever amount you want on the card. You can reload when you run out of funds. Contact Robin Depies, our Treasurer, @ 719-761-1802 or Robin@HeartfeltFinancialSolutions.com; she has 3 of them available for you.



In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy and love to Ann Hecox's family upon her death on August 11, 2025. Ann was a 28-year member of AAUW and leaves many friends behind. If you would like to correspond with her husband, Walt, you may reach him at 2220 Mesa Rd., COS 80904.

We also send our sympathies to Kerry Hefta on the passing of her mother, Ardella Mae Hefta on July 29 at the age of 95.

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

Environmental Action Interest Group's Visit to the Water Treatment Plant on Mesa Drive and Fillmore

Photos by Pam Maier

Environmental Action IG August 13 Trip

Our Environmental Action Interest Group members are reducing plastic pollution by collecting grocery bags and other plastic items and have provided 5 local nonprofits (Concrete Couch, Voces Unidas for Justice, CPCD Headstart, Millibo Art Center and The Place) with a NEXTREX bench with more to come. Previously, NEXTREX required 500 lbs of plastic to qualify for the bench. This year they upped it to 1000 lbs, which we have already collected!

Our most recent activity was touring the Colorado Springs Utilities Water treatment plant on Mesa Drive. The Plant Manager, Marcus, took us through the facility, carefully explaining the processes. We came away feeling well informed and grateful that our water is in good hands. We learned that the large, covered tank at Fillmore and Mesa Dr. contains the finished filtered water that originates from Pikes Peak's reservoirs. From there it is distributed to one-fourth of Colorado Springs. No fluoride is added to the raw water. Rather, some must be removed.

Our bi-monthly programs are outings to local recycling centers, farms, and businesses in the sustainable field. Join us.

Schon Beechler and Pam Maier, Co-Chairs EAIG

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, MAH JONGG

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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