



March 2015

"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research."

Volume 15 Issue 2

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## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

March 18th program - Women in the Military

Social time: 6:30-7:00

Program: 7:00 - 8:00

Short business meeting to follow



*"Our nation was built on the premise of the citizen soldier. In our democracy...it is the responsibility of every citizen to protect the nation. And every citizen who can meet the qualifications of service should have that opportunity."* Leon Panetta

**March 18, 2015**

**P.S. Miller Library  
Reading Room**

**6:30**

**Women in the Military**



Kristin Goodrich graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1989 as a Public Affairs Officer. She grew up overseas, but now calls Colorado Springs home following her husband's service in the Air Force. Deni Johnson is a 1990 graduate from the United States Naval Academy and served as a Cryptology Officer. She and her family are currently stationed here in Colorado Springs, her husband is active duty Army. They will be discussing the changes of women at the Academies and in the military over the past four decades. This will be interesting as well as educational. Please plan on attending and bring a friend!

**Editors**

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Submit to Kathy Chavez by the 25th of the Month,



## Co-President's Message

Doris MacDougall

March 2015

AAUW Colorado's Public Policy Day was held this year on February 7, 2015, at the Lone Tree Marriott. The Douglas County Branch was represented by Beryl Jacobson, Char Sholes, Diane Norten, Dianne Bailey and myself. A record 131 AAUW members and guests attended the forum to hear five speakers talk about Colorado issues. Jeannie Ritter, who made Mental Health her focus as First Lady of Colorado from 2007 to 2011, continues her advocacy in this area serving as Colorado's Mental Health Ambassador. The emphasis of her talk was on early childhood. Even at 0-3 years of age, children's physical and behavioral environment can determine their well-being as they grow into adulthood. If they are living in chaotic households, it can impact their development and lead to physical problems such as diabetes, chronic heart disease and depression, and very often severe emotional problems. She speaks to hundreds of organizations and community gatherings to promote her goal of creating healthier family environments. The creation of a new cabinet position in Colorado entitled Behavioral Health Strategist, a post to be held by Mr. Don Morris, is a step in the right direction .

We then heard from Stacy Buchanan, Vice-President of Information Strategy at Qualistar Colorado. Qualistar Colorado is a nonprofit striving to advance quality early childhood education. Stacy is responsible for data regarding the demand and quality of child care programs in the state. There are about 5500 licensed child care programs, home-based and center-based, and over 33 thousand are employed in this area. Most are lower paid women with a high school education, many seeking associate degrees. Sixty-three percent of families in Colorado have a two-parent workforce; so, the need for affordable, quality childcare is ever increasing. Following Stacy, was Tracey Stewart with Colorado Impact Center for Economic Prosperity. Her emphasis is on legislative issues for women that will give them an opportunity to work toward stability in their lives. A major concern is child care costs and availability, as many mothers have to work non-regular working hours such as nights and week-ends.

Amy Blackwell ended the morning session by updating the members on the legislative news - Colorado lost one woman in the last election but still has the highest number in the General Assembly. She later went over the outstanding bills dealing with women's issues in the state senate and/or house of representatives that AAUW is either supporting or against. We do have a list of these bills for your review.

The afternoon session consisted of the final two speakers, Claire Levy and Henry Sobanet. Claire is an attorney and former member of the Colorado House of Representatives. She is currently Executive Director of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. Henry is the Director of State Planning and Budgeting. Major points emphasized by both these speakers is the cost of education in our state. Sadly, Colorado is 49<sup>th</sup> in the country for funding per student, and at the college level, tuition is rising much faster than income - the median income earner is finding it more difficult each year to include higher education in their budget.

We left the forum with a mountain of information, and the idea that there is much work to be done to give more women the opportunity to better themselves and create healthy and more stable families.



Douglas County Branch AAUW Minutes  
February 18, 2015  
Submitted by Suzanne LaRue



6:52 pm Doris MacDougall called the meeting order.

- ◆ Marcia Miller announced the receipt of another check for \$300 from King Soopers. She shared a letter from the Douglas-Elbert Task Force thanking us for the eight \$10 gift cards we gave them for their clients. Suzanne LaRue reported we also had one from the Women's Crisis Center, but she forgot to bring it.
- ◆ Guests present included Suzanne K' Kroepsch's husband, David, and Kathy Chavez's daughter, Kimberly Surry.
- ◆ Kathy Chavez presented a PowerPoint slide show of photos from her 2013 hike of the Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile trail in northern Spain that she completed in just over a month.
- ◆ Doris MacDougall called the business meeting portion of the evening to order at 8:15pm.
- ◆ The minutes as published in the last Newsletter were approved after a motion from Stephanie Fong and second from Diane Norten.
- ◆ Jane Ott moved that the Treasurer's Report as published in the last newsletter be approved; Kathy Chavez seconded; the motion carried unanimously.
- ◆ **Program Update:** Peggy Servaas reported that the March meeting will feature two women who were among the earliest graduates of the Naval Academy speaking about their experience in the military. April's STEM awards ceremony will be held at the South Street Methodist Church. May's meeting will be at the Louviers Village Clubhouse. Peggy has successfully rescheduled January's presenter for our September meeting, which will be at the Methodist Church.
- ◆ **Fundraising:** Stephanie Fong and Julie Reagan will continue in their posts for another year. The need for a summer fundraiser will be discussed at the March Board meeting.
- ◆ **Membership:** Pat Proctor reported that there are no new members.

## Minutes Continued...

- ◆ **Scholarship:** STEM/ Suzanne Kroepsch won't be at the April meeting to make the presentations, but will have everything in place. Pat Kammerling volunteered to make the presentations.
- ◆ **Communications:** Nothing to report.
- ◆ **Nominating:** JoAnn McCall reported they have one person who has committed to a post; Kendra O'Hayre is working on some more.
- ◆ **Public Policy:** Doris MacDougall reported on the Public Policy Day that took place earlier in the month. She will provide an article for the newsletter. The main topics included mental health, and children's issues (education and Colorado's poor per-pupil funding; childcare)
- ◆ **Old Business:** updates on meeting rooms for upcoming meetings. The May meeting in Louviers will include a tour of the building and a presentation on the history of Louviers.
- ◆ **New Business:** The State Convention is at the Hilton in Ft. Collins April 24 & 25. Former DC member Amy Blackwell is running for state president.

The National Convention is in San Diego in mid-June. Jane Ott, Doris MacDougall, and Diane Norten. are all unable to attend. Remember that a reimbursement for some expenses is available for members who attend either of the conventions.

Financial Commitments to our Scholarships: It has been very difficult to find qualified applicants for our scholarships. We need to decide whether we want to continue to make these awards, and if so, how to better promote them. Peggy Servaas suggested the formation of a task force. Also, due to our other financial commitments, we may need to reconsider the methods by which we raise the necessary funds. One possibility is to raise the membership fees slightly. Should we cap the scholarships at a particular dollar amount, no matter how few candidates there might be?

Colorado Springs AAUW is holding their own Public Policy Day on March 16; the topic is "The Raising of America."

Doris MacDougall presented information on AAUW's "Washington Update" and the "Action Network."

The Fund drawing made Pat Proctor a winner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



## Douglas County AAUW Budget Report

February 25, 2015

Marsha Johnson, Treasurer

Our account balances are as follows:

SAVINGS:	\$4296.18
RESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$1607.55
UNRESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$4098.21

The month of February had little account activity. Are we hibernating?

Our King Sooper's Fundraiser earned us \$300.78 this month! Remember, it is cold some days and that does require more eating . . . right? Marcia Miller expects another check from Safeway soon. Thank you to all who participate. Please let Marcia Miller know if you need an extra gift card.

We also earned \$56.53 from EBay sales. Thank you to Marcia who continues to work on this endeavor.

A head's up . . . the membership chair and I will begin to collect membership dues for our next fiscal year beginning in April. I so appreciated that our branch was so efficient this past year and all dues were collected prior to July 1. You cannot imagine how much easier that makes my job! Thank you so much.

## Dates to Remember



- ◇ **March 10, Colorado Springs Public Policy Event (see page 5)**
- ◇ **March 18, 2015, AAUW Board Meeting at 5:00**
- ◇ **April 14, 2015, Equal Pay Day**
- ◇ **April 24-25, 2015, State Convention, Ft. Collins**
- ◇ **June 18-21, 2015, National Convention, San Diego, CA.**

## Future meeting Locations



**March:** PS Miller Library Reading Room  
**April:** Methodist Church  
**May:** Louviers (more details to follow)

### Little Steps, Big Feat!



The February branch program was a big hit with the arm chair travelers among us. Thank you to our own Kathy Chavez for taking us along on *El Camino de Santiago* - one of the most famous hiking trails in the world. Kathy's travelogue, displayed through dozens of photos, described her journey physically, mentally, and spiritually. What an interesting trip and what an interesting woman. Thank you Kathy!

### THE RAISING OF AMERICA

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION

**The Raising of America**

Tuesday, March 10

4-6 pm

Library 21c

1175 Chapel Hills Drive

Join us for Special One-Hour Screening

Plus Briefing on

Childcare Cost/Availability in Colorado

Women's Foundation of Colorado

2015 Legislation

Colorado Children's Campaign

Will you  
change my  
future?

**Why is child well-being in the U.S. declining? Join us and learn:**

- How early childhood experience determines life-long well-being
- Why economists say investing in early childhood education and opportunity is imperative
- Six policy recommendations to reduce childcare costs in Colorado

## *The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation*

### Colorado Springs Public Policy Event





## State Convention in Fort Collins

**Where:** Hilton, Fort Collins, 425 W. Prospect Road, Fort Collins Colorado, Phone (970)224-9209

**When:** April 24-25, 2015

**Reservations:** Call Kimberly Riggs 970-494-2947 or email her at Kimberly.Riggs@JOH.com. You may also link to book your reservation. <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AAUW2015>

**Reservation Deadline:** March 25, 2015

### AAUW Today and Tomorrow

Here are some highlights of what to expect at the convention.

- \* Reception on Friday at the Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery.
- \* Speaker Stephanie Foote, Girl Scouts of Colorado, "What Do Girls Say?"
- \* Leadership, STEM, and Financial Literacy: What does the research say?
- \* Kate Farrar, AAUW VP, Campus Leadership Programs - AAUW National and CU partnership briefs.
- \* John Howe, Director of the STEM Conference held each summer in Ft. Collins, will make a presentation with some of his students.
- \* An opportunity to find out what other AAUW chapters are doing as well as getting together with other AAUW friends.



# AAUW WASHINGTON UPDATE

As many of you know, it takes women about 15 months to earn what men earn in 12, thanks to the gender pay gap. We "celebrate" this occasion every April on a day known as Equal Pay Day, which is the symbolic day when women's earnings (78 cents to men's dollar) finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year.

**Equal Pay Day 2015 is Tuesday, April 14.** In a calendar twist that even we couldn't have planned, Equal Pay Day also falls on fair pay icon Lilly Ledbetter's birthday this year (stay tuned for opportunities to wish our dear AAUW friend a happy birthday this April!)

Deborah Swerdlow, Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator

## Top Stories

### Standardized Testing a Focus in Debate over Education Bill

The battle over what should be included in an Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization has intensified as the House is expected to vote on a bill that has already passed the House education committee. President Barack Obama [spoke](#) about reauthorizing ESEA in his weekly address last week, saying he supports standardized tests to "make sure parents and teachers know how our kids and schools are doing from year to year, and relative to schools statewide." This week, the National Education Association [launched](#) new efforts to pressure lawmakers to eliminate federal testing requirements, claiming that over-testing students does more harm than good - a position shared by conservative advocacy groups.

- AAUW opposes the House bill, H.R. 5, and urges lawmakers to instead consider a bill that requires annual, statewide assessments that measure each student's progress toward meeting the state's college and career-ready standards. [Contact your representative with this message today!](#)

### Wal-Mart Pay Raise is Step in Right Direction

Wal-Mart [announced](#) this week that it will increase the pay of nearly 40 percent of its workforce. Starting in April, workers will earn at least \$9 per hour, and wages will increase to at least \$10 per hour by February 2016. With the federal minimum wage currently set at \$7.25, this announcement is a welcome change for Wal-Mart's workers, and it showcases the power of organizing. Change can happen when people band together with one voice. However, the fight is not over: \$10 per hour is not enough to support a family.

## Bits and Pieces

-The majority of Americans support raising the minimum wage and requiring employers to offer paid sick and parental leave, according to a new Associated Press-GfK [poll](#).

- A recent national [survey](#) by Fairfield Dickinson University's PublicMind found that the American public holds many misconceptions about Common Core, which has contributed to its unpopularity. Created by state governors and education officers, Common Core was intended to establish national standards for learning so that all students would leave high school prepared to enter college or the labor force. AAUW [supports](#) states' voluntary adoption of Common Core standards.

- NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education sent a [letter](#), which AAUW signed, to state lawmakers across the country urging them to reconsider bills that would interfere with colleges' efforts to prevent campus sexual assault. Some state legislatures are considering bills that would require colleges to refer all reports of sexual violence to law enforcement or that would give accused students judicial rights that are not available to accusers. Additionally, the Department of Justice, in partnership with the White House's Office on Violence Against Women, is [offering grants](#) in hopes of identifying best practices in both sexual assault investigations and adjudications.



## May AAUW Meeting at Louviers Village Club



The following information is taken from an article published in the January 15, 2015, issue of Your Hub, about the Douglas County town of Louviers. The article was written by Elizabeth Hernandez, a Denver Post contributor. Our AAUW May meeting will be held at the Village Club. Kendra O'Hayre and Beryl Jacobson will be providing more information for the April newsletter.

*"Louviers was a company town built to house workers and their families at the DuPont dynamite company in the early 1900s, said Judy Hammer, planner with the Douglas County Department of Community Development.*

*According to History Colorado, the DuPont Company built the Louviers Village Club in 1908 with a more elaborate structure in 1917 to foster a sense of community in the new town. The club featured a grocery store, "women's talk room," post office, two-lane bowling alley and billiard table.*

*DuPont ran the club until 1963, when it leased the facility to the town, History Colorado said. Douglas County has owned the club since 1975, and the DuPont plant closed in the early 1980s.*

*Shannon Haltiwanger, preservation communications manager at History Colorado, said the club has received six State Historical Fund grants totaling more than \$650,000 for restoration purposes including restoring exterior woodwork and masonry, removing a non-historic drop ceiling and repairing and replacing windows. "*

### [Elizabeth Hernandez, Denver Post](#)

- \* Louviers has an estimated 269 residents.
- \* The historical building is surrounded by residential homes.
- \* The club remains central to the Louviers community.
- \* The bowling alley is one of the longest running alleys in the state.
- \* The building can be rented for weddings and other events.

Any changes in  
the calendar  
are in RED!

# CALENDAR FOR ANY MONTH

Questions contact Natalie Weber 303-688-4797

Changes...Contact AAUW newsletter editors.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> Bridge-Singles 6:30 pm (Doris Mac-Dougall)	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> B r i d g e - Couples 6:30 pm (Margaret Boone)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> AM Book Club 10 am Miller Library (Kendra O'Hayre)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Evening Book Club 6:00 PM  (Linda Washburn)	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> D o m i n o Games 1 pm Ann Aviles	3 <sup>rd</sup> AAUW Branch 6:30 pm PS Miller L i b r a r y ( u s u a l l y ) Check page 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> C o l o r a d o History / Culture Club Pat Proctor 9:00 AM	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Mah Jongg 2:00 PM Julie Reagan Susan Blackburn	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, life-long education and positive societal change. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barrier to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation,

Elected Board Members	Current (2014-2015)	Incoming (2015-2016)	Advisor (Previous Year's Officers -2013/2014)
<b>Co-Presidents</b>	Jane Ott 303-688-3960 <a href="mailto:janeo.crc@gmail.com">janeo.crc@gmail.com</a> Doris MacDougall 720-733-1892 <a href="mailto:dorismacd@hotmail.com">dorismacd@hotmail.com</a>	Marcia Miller 303-470-2844 <a href="mailto:millermarcia@me.com">millermarcia@me.com</a>	Dianne Bailey 303-805-2380 <a href="mailto:bailey.nyce@pcisys.net">bailey.nyce@pcisys.net</a>
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<b>Treasurer (2 year term)</b>	Marsha Johnson (2013-2015) 303-814-8795; 303-619-5757 <a href="mailto:mimifj714@aol.com">mimifj714@aol.com</a>	Marsha Johnson (2013-2015) 303-814-8795; 303-619-5757 <a href="mailto:mimifj714@aol.com">mimifj714@aol.com</a>	

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