



March 2016

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March 30th Program

Note the date change

Time - 6:30

Place - Library Sanctuary Room on the left as you enter the front doors

Changing our World

We are honored to have Michelle Bledsoe, a NCCWSL participant, and Amy Blackwell, state AAUW President and delegate to the 60th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, present this month's program. This is the annual meeting that connects us to the larger picture. Please plan on attending and feel good about what we give back to make our world a better place.

To learn more about NCCWSL, please visit nccwsl.org

You can learn more about AAUW's work at the UN at the following link.

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/global-connections/international-coalitions/united-nations/>

March 30

6:30 PM

PS Miller Library

Reading Sanctuary

**Changing Our World
One Woman at a Time**

Amy Blackwell with NCCWSL alum Michelle Bledsoe—a testimony of AAUW's college women's leadership conference

Editors

Submit to Kathy Chavez and Nedda Altschuld by the 25th of the month.

Co-President's Message

Doris MacDougall

February 2016

The Colorado State Convention this year, to be held April 22-23, 2016, at the Sylvan Dale Ranch in Loveland, Colorado has the theme, "Know Your IX" – a focus on Title IX. Since I have been retired way too long, it's been awhile since I studied the essence of this law, so I did a little research.

Title IX was part of the Education Amendments passed in 1972, but the information that follows was found under the US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights as revised in April 2015.

Title IX states: No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

This applies to institutions to include national, state and local educational agencies which number approximately 16,500 local school districts, 7,000 postsecondary institutions, as well as charter schools, for-profit schools, libraries and museums across the 50 states, the District of Columbia and other territories of the US. Some types of discrimination under Title IX include sexual harassment, failure to provide equal opportunity in athletics, discrimination in the schools' science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses and programs, and also discrimination based on pregnancy.

Please note that STEM is included in the revised version of Title IX. Which brings me to applaud our AAUW Douglas County branch who voted at our February meeting to contribute enough funds to send three 6th, 7th, or 8th grade girls to the annual Boulder STEM workshop entitled "Expanding Your Horizons" to be held in April. Several branch members also gave individual donations to make it possible for even more young ladies to attend, and at least two of our members will also volunteer at the workshop.

I am sure the state convention discussions next month will provide us with more ideas and information on this important piece of legislation such as how students, parents, coaches, teachers and administrators can help enforce Title IX. After all these years, it is still a challenge!



AAUW Minutes
February 17, 2016
Ruth Lundgren, Secretary



The meeting opened at 6:30 pm with Peggy SerVaas introducing a panel of five to discuss Aging in Place...or Not. The panel members represented three areas of help for aging and changing lifestyles. We learned about the Douglas County Neighbor Network, Answers for Senior Care - a company helping with placement for change of residency and geriatric care management, and Smooth Transitions, a company that helps with the actual moving process.

The business meeting started with a video of a STEM workshop for girls called Expanding Your Horizons. There is an Expanding Your Horizons workshop in Boulder, April 2nd, for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls. Membership was invited to volunteer at the workshop or sponsor participants for \$40 each. Ruth Lundgren moved that our branch sponsor three girls for the Expanding Your Horizons workshop in Boulder for a total of \$120. Diane Norten seconded the motion. Motion approved.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES:

Stephanie Fong moved; Kristen Sidney seconded the motion to accept the January minutes. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was approved.

MEMBERSHIP:

There were no guests or new members.

PUBLIC POLICY:

Diane Norten reported that she has written detailed articles for the newsletter with information from Public Policy Day.

BYLAWS:

Carol Marshall has made mandatory changes to the bylaws to be in compliance with National. There is a new requirement for officer term limits to be included in bylaws. A special committee will meet to discuss the term limits of officers and changes to bylaws to present to the membership for approval. The branch bylaws need to be sent to National in May.

Minutes Continued...

OLD BUSINESS;

The nominating committee is being formed and will be calling members to fill the open officer positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marcia Miller presented a proposal to Make a Big Job Easier for Fundraising. The proposal was to divide Fundraising into three categories: Gift Cards, Tacos and Tunes, and Holiday Auction. There would be people to chair each of these categories. This would eliminate a VP of Fundraising. Stephanie Fong moved that Vice President of Fundraising be removed from the branch bylaws. Fundraising would become a special committee. Kristen Sidney seconded the motion. Motion approved.

There was a brief discussion concerning Douglas County Branch material/history being archived in Denver Public Library and Douglas County Library. Do we need to consolidate? This will be further discussed in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.



Douglas County AAUW Budget Report - February 17, 2016

Our account balances are as follows:

SAVINGS:	\$4296.55
RESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$ 130.78
UNRESTRICTED CHECKING:	\$4515.53

It has been a quiet February, budget-wise. We did earn \$514.99 from our King Soopers/Safeway gift cards! Yeah us! We've almost reached our goal for the year.

Marsha Johnson

Treasurer

Submitted by: Diane Norten

CHILDCARE IN CRISIS

Report from program "The Raising of America" Community meeting held in Colorado Springs January 9, 2016.

Our children and toddlers will lead our nation in 2050, thirty-four years from now. That seems like a long way off, yet we need to do something now to make their future successful. Where do we stand in the United States? The following information tells the story:

- . The US ranks 31st in availability of childcare
- . Sixteenth (16th) in affordability of childcare
- . Thirty-fourth (34th) in the child poverty rate, only Romania is lower
- . 40% of five year olds are not ready for pre-school.

At birth, a child's brain has 80 billion brain cells. The brain has reached 85% of its development by age 3. A child's learning comes from interactions with parents and other caregivers. There is licensed space for only 44% of Colorado's children under the age of 6 who need care. So most parents turn to family, friends or neighbors to help them with childcare. Costs and availability of spaces in childcare centers deter many parents. Center based childcare costs about ten thousand dollars. How the stress of meeting these needs and costs affects parents and their children can only be guessed. Childcare centers need to be accredited; yet 89% of childcare centers in Colorado are not accredited. Licensing does not guarantee quality but it does provide minimum health and safety standards.

Half of Colorado's workforce are women with 59% of all mothers of infants working outside the home. Sixty-two percent (62%) of all mothers of children under 6 are employed. Childcare workers earn \$19,600 a year. One can easily see the need for early childhood education centers. The outcome of high quality care centers will reduce the number of prison in-mates, and reduce the number of students needing remedial and special education. Additionally, the number of people on welfare assistance will be reduced, with better education, this will lead to better employment.

These statistics, although shocking, reinforce the need to develop programs to ensure the future through our children. The DVD series "The Raising of America" delves into all these issues and is available for public and private showings. It is also important to follow and endorse legislation promoting childcare.

Submitted by Diane Norten

PUBLIC POLICY DAY- FEBRUARY 6, 2016

One of the many programs presented by Colorado AAUW occurs each year in February. This year's program featured outstanding speakers. Andrew Romanoff, former Speaker of the House in Colorado, addressed mental health issues in Colorado. He stated that mental health illnesses are treated differently than physical illness--a challenge to overcome. Symptoms of mental illness usually appear by age 14, but from the time symptom appear to treatment is eight years. Mr. Romanoff provided personal information and mental health statistics for CO.

- . Colorado has 1325 mental health beds (50th rank in the US)
- . Colorado has 5433 prisoners (4th in the US)
- . 55-65% of prisoners have mental health issues
- . People with mental health issues live 25 years less

Mr. Romanoff also reviewed suicide statistics as related to teenagers. Studies show that students who receive mental health care have fewer school absences and expulsions, increased test scores and passing grades. He endorses identifying teens with mental health issues early in the education process.

The audience was encouraged to look at the eight hours mental health first aid course at mhfac.org and an app called my strength.

Mr. Romanoff's talk was followed by a panel with Ellen Golombek and Linda Meric. They presented information on legislative issues, economic statistics and life-long learning programs. Ellen had recently returned from a conference in Switzerland where she learned of several programs that could have potential for our state.

Other programs of interest during the day included AAUW stands on current legislative bills, Medicaid and Start Smart.

Public Policy Day is always very informative and AAUW members and community people are always rewarded with high quality information.

Submitted by Diane Norten

CHARTING THE COURSE

In 2015, AAUW began a fund raising event called Charting the Course. The purpose of the campaign was to raise a million dollars in two years to build on AAUW's foundation of leading the charge for women's equality. Funds raised through the campaign will allow the organization to invest in growing successful programs to reach more women and girls, react quickly and responsibly to new challenges facing women and girls, and generate research programs and advocacy efforts to overcome these challenges.

The unrestricted dollars raised through the Charting the Course campaign will help to incubate and disseminate programs in four key areas that are in need of additional resources. Restricted funds are used for fellowships and grants. All other programs, such as those listed below must come from unrestricted funds. These funds will promote mission-based programs and offer programs to more communities.

1. Investing in women leaders
2. Overcoming barriers to women's participation in STEM careers
3. Eliminating the gender pay gap
4. Preparing AAUW for bold and ambitious future.

To participate in this important project, go to www.aauw.org/DonateNow or click on Charting the Course.



Attendees from
Public Policy Day

Spotlight on Membership



It is time to start renewing our AAUW membership! We need to complete this before the end of June. Please don't wait until the last minute as this may lead to panic on my behalf :). Renewing online is easy and a preferred method since you will be able to keep your information updated. If you prefer to give us a check at March or April's meeting (\$70), we can do that as well.

Instructions for online renewals:

- 1: Please log in to the Douglas County AAUW website by internet search, or go directly to douglascounty-co.aauw.net
- 2: On the right side, find membership benefits under AAUW link
- 3: Click Join/Renew
- 4: Click Branch Members Join/Renew
- 5: We are, of course, the Douglas County Branch, so click "log into MSD"
- 6: On the left side, please click "renew"

At this point, you will be asked for your membership number that is handy if you have it, but not required. If you do not have your membership number handy, you will be able to log in with name and other info.

Feel free to email, call or catch me at a meeting with questions, or if you'd like me to tell you what your member id is from my list.

Kristy Sidney
303-660-3346
kwbhsid@gmail.com



Dates to Remember

- AAUW March meeting date change: March 30th, at PS Miller Library (Reading Sanctuary). **NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!**
- April 12, Equal Pay Day
- April 20, High School STEM awards Presentation
- April 22-23, 2016, *Colorado State Convention*, Loveland.
- May 18, 2016, Annual meeting at Prairie Canyon Ranch
- July 14-17, 2016, *Rocky Mountain Regional Conference*, Sheraton Uptown, Albuquerque, NM.
- September 9-10, 2016, *Fall Leadership Conference*, Colorado Springs.

May 18th Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held at Prairie Canyon Ranch. This event will include a tour with historic information of the area. Also, for those that wish to 'walk the area' there will be a 1 to 1 ½ hour hike in the afternoon before we eat and have our meeting. Food arrangements are still pending.

A Reminder...

The April meeting will be our annual STEM AWARDS EVENT. If possible, wear your alma mater gear to our meeting in April. Let's show our Stem Award Winners where we went to college/university. You still have a couple of months to find something to wear. Ebay is a fun place to look. Anything will do: t-shirt, sweat-shirt, hat, scarf, banner, etc. This is optional, of course, but will be fun. Gosh, I better start shopping!

Marcia Miller

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CALENDAR FOR ANY MONTH						
			Bridge Singles 6:30 PM (Doris MacDougall)			Bridge Couples 6:30 PM (Margaret Boone)
2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
		AM Book Club 10 AM Miller Library (Kendra O'Hayre)	Evening Book Club 6:00 PM (Linda Washburn)			
3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd
		Domino Games 1 PM (Natalie Weber)	AAUW Branch 6:30 PM PS Miller Library (Usually) Check Page 1	Colorado History/Culture Club 9 AM (TBD)	<p style="text-align: center;">Questions? Please contact Natalie Weber</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Changes...Contact AAUW newsletter editors.</p>	
4 th	4 th	4 th	4 th	4 th		
		Mah Jongg 1:00 PM (Julie Reagan & Susan Blackburn)	10			

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, class, national origin, or disability.

Elected Board Members	Current (2015-2016)	Incoming (2016-2017)	Advisor (previous year's officers)
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Co-Presidents	Doris MacDougall Marcia Miller	Beryl Jacobson	Jane Ott
VP Program	Peggy SerVaas		Pat Kammerling
VP Membership	Kristen Sidney	Dorothy Nugent	Pat Proctor
VP Fundraising	Stephanie Fong Julie Reagan		Marcia Miller
Secretary (2 year term)	Ruth Lundgren		Suzanne La Rue
Treasurer (2 year term)	Marsha Johnson		Marsha Johnson