**September 2018 AAUW Newsletter**

**Loveland, Colorado**

**Our mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.**

**A Note From Your Presidents:**

Fall is in the air so that means AAUW is back in swing! It will be good to see everyone at our September potluck dinner which is on September 17 at 6:30 pm, at Carol Fortin’s house. If you know someone that may be interested in coming and learning about AAUW, please bring them.

Wanda and I attended the Fall Leadership Conference held in Lakewood in August where we met women from branches throughout the state. We saw first-hand the dedication of our state leadership to our mission: Advance gender equity through research, advocacy, and education. Our focus is to disseminate the message and recruit others with similar values.

Our fall fundraiser is coming up soon – Conversations with Authors (see more information below). I (Karla) am reading Kaia Anderson’s Trial by Fire, and it is an eye-opener into this author’s experience with stalking. I read one of Charlotte Hinger’s mysteries which had lots of twists and turns. This will be a fun and interesting event: if everyone can bring a friend, we can really make this profitable toward our scholarship fund.

Hopefully we will see you all at the potluck. Note that it is on Monday, September 17, and not on the usual last Monday of the month.

 Wanda Marker and Karla Marroquin, your new co-presidents

**September Meeting**

Our first meeting of the new AAUW year will be at the home of AAUW member Carol Fortin, 5608 Janna Drive on September 17. This is a week earlier than usual because Loveland Loves to Read is hosting Anthony Doerr on our regular meeting night. We will meet at 6:30 and members are asked to bring easy to eat appetizers. Drinks will be provided – both wine and non-alcoholic. Please bring a guest(s) with you. This is mainly a social event with information about our branch for the guests and a minimal amount of business. Estelle Barrett has volunteered to plan a mixer to help us get to know one another.

**Summer Meeting**

Kathleen Wilson hosted a meeting in her home this summer where we talked about the next year in our AAUW branch. At that meeting Karla Marroquin and Wanda Marker graciously volunteered to be co-presidents and Marjie Johnson volunteered to continue as co-program chairperson. One of the suggestions made was that we need to be more intentional about becoming acquainted with each other and with our new members. Estelle Barrett volunteered to help by providing activities that would be helpful in helping with this goal.

**Planning Meeting**

Our co-presidents are chairing a planning meeting on Tuesday evening, September 11 – 6 PM at Wanda’s home. Hopefully all officers and chairpersons will be able to attend. In addition, anyone interested in hearing about or having input into the planning is welcome to attend. RSVP to Wanda as she is providing a meal (619 -8828 or wandamarker3@comcast.net).

**Conversations with Authors**

This event will take place on October 13, again at the Best Western Inn and Conference Center. Changes this year include changing to a breakfast, having only two authors and lowering the price. Our two Colorado authors are Kaia Anderson who wrote Trial by Fire , a story of her survival of years of being stalked and Charlotte Hinger, a writer of history and mysteries. We will again have baskets where you can buy opportunity tickets. This is one of our two fundraisers for scholarships and need the support of all of our member – so come and bring some friends. Also, if you have items you would like to donate for the baskets call Karla. We have several sponsors of gift cards but could use chocolate, wine, and ???

**Book Group**

The first meeting of the book group will be Monday afternoon, September 10, at the home of Wanda Marker, 1431 Allison Drive. Carol Fortin will lead the discussion. Participants are asked to read one or more books by the Conversations with Authors authors. Any member is welcome to be a part of this group which usually meets the first Monday afternoon of each month September through June (one week later this month because of Labor Day). If you plan to attend call or e-mail Wanda at 618-8828 or wmarker3@comcast.net See the website for the complete book list.

**Dates to Remember**

**Public Policy Day “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” – February 2, 2019 – Lakewood Holiday Inn**

**State Convention in Longmont – April 26-27, 2019**

**Officers**

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**AAUW Statement Opposing the Confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh**

**August 3, 2018**

“AAUW’s expectation is that our next Supreme Court justice will support the fundamental rights of all individuals and understand that his or her decisions have a very real impact on the daily lives of women and their families. After careful review of Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s available record, it is clear to us that he would not be that justice. Judge Kavanaugh’s record shows that he is willing to do grave harm by undermining positions central to AAUW’s mission, including upending employment and labor rights, opposing reproductive rights and access to health care, entangling public education and religion, and restricting voting rights. The Supreme Court is the arbiter of so many of the rights essential to women and girls and if confirmed Judge Kavanagh will have a say in those decisions for decades to come. Therefor, AAUW opposes Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation to the Supreme Court.

On the specifics of his available record, Judge Kavanaugh’s confirmation would put women’s constitutional rights, including abortion, at risk. He has shown opposition to women’s access to reproductive health care and contraception, seeking to delay a woman’s access to an abortion, arguing in support of religious employers who obstruct the employees; access to contraceptive coverage, and calling into question protections of the Affordable Care Act.

Judge Kavanaugh has shown little support for workers’ rights, including low-wage workers and workers of color. While on the bench, Judge Kavanaugh argued to weaken protections for race and age discrimination, as well as to narrow prohibitions against retaliation. He routinely argued to limit workers’ rights to organize and to narrow the scope of our nation’s labor laws. He has consistently sided with employers and against workers, refusing to support those who week to improve workplace conditions and to protect those who have experienced discrimination.

While we continue to urge that Judge Kavanaugh’s full record be released to the American public, his available record makes clear that he stands in opposition to the values and mission of AAUW. He is the wrong choice for the Supreme Court and for women and girls. Now more than ever we need a Supreme Court justice who is not beholden to ideology and will be an independent voice. The role the next justice will play in all of our lives is too important for anything less.

**Colorado AAUW website** – aauw-co.aauw.net

**Loveland branch website** – aauw-loveland.aauw.net