**Summer 2020 AAUW Newsletter**

**Loveland, Colorado**

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

**education and advocacy**

**A note from our president –**

Hello Everyone!

 It’s been awhile since we’ve gotten together as a group and I’m missing seeing you all. Thinking creatively seems to be the new way of doing things so here we go! National AAUW is strongly recommending that branches do not hold in-person meetings through December, but also following local and state guidelines. Not only is safety paramount for our members, but liability is a factor. So we will go to a zoom program meeting stating in September. Unfortunately, we will be unable to have our welcoming potluck dinner which Claudia Ward had offered to host. Kathy Wilson has graciously offered to conduct our zoom meetings. Because Kathy also initiates meetings for the League of Women Voters – which happens to have their regular meetings on the fourth Monday of the month as AAUW does – our Board has changed our meetings to the third Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. So write it on your calendar – our first meeting will be September 21. If you have an acquaintance who would be interested in seeing one of our programs, you can mention it to Kathy before the meeting so she can send them the link.

 In the spring Kathy initiated Friday zoom socials which is a fun way to keep connected when we cannot meet in-person as a group. We’ll be starting those up again in August, first and third Fridays of the month at 1:00 pm – August 7 and 21. These zoom socials can also be a way of practicing doing Zoom if you don’t already know how to do it. Kathy will help anyone to do it and she is a good teacher! I know I need some jpratice so I’ll be practicing during these social sessions.

 In addition to our monthly zoom programs, our book group will be resuming in the fall with zoom meetings. Anybody who is interested in joining the book group can call Barbie Clark, 970-667-7445, for more information. Our books will be listed on our website.

 I received a message from the State Nominating Committee seeking candidates for state office. It is customary for branches to suggest names of their members to the committee as possible candidates for state positions. The positions that are open are President-elect, Program Development VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Co-Public Policy Director. If you would like to nominate someone contact Jill Smith, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at jillsmithco@gmail.com.

 Take Care and Stay Safe, Karla Marroquin

**Officer Changes**

Wanda Marker recently resigned as program co-chair as she is spending quite a bit of time out of town. Thanks to Leni Bohren for accepting the Board request for her to serve as co-chair with Claudia Ward. Also, Linda Espanol has agreed to be our Sunshine person. If you know of someone who is ill or has a significant event happening in her life, contact Linda so she can send a card to her from her AAUW friends.

**Conversations with Authors Cancelled**

The committee met recently and decided that we needed to cancel this years event. We re-scheduled it for October 9, 2021 at the Best Western. The authors who were going to speak this year have agreed to speak next year.

**Listening TownHall**

Jan Witt tells us that Loveland is having their second townhall meeting on zoom, Sunday, July 26, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm to address “ Racism in Our Community.” Black, Indigenous and People of Color in our community will share their experiences of racism in their own words. Speakers will have 3-5 minutes to share their stories and answers during the meeting. If you identify as a person of color you are invited to join us to answer the question - What does discrimination look like to you? If you identify as white you are invited to join and listen with your camera and microphone off. Your questions and answers can be shared via the chat function on Zoom and may be answered by the speakers or followed up via e-mail. Your work for this gathering is to take the time to hear what may feel like very different experiences of Loveland than your own.

 To join the meeting, please e-mail: join@storieswithoutborders.org for instructions on how to attend the Zoom meeting.

**Five Star State and Branch Recognition Programs**

The national AAUW has established a new recognition program. There are five areas which we are to address in a strategic plan. Briefly, here is a highlight of what this means:

**Programs** includes having 3-5 programs or events which are mission based dealing with:

Education and Training –addressing the barriers and implicit biases that hinder advancement of women

Economic Security – ensuring livelihoods for women

Leadership – closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities

**Advancement** means shifting the focus in branch giving from fellowships and grant to greatest needs or strategic plan focus areas, retaining 90% or more of our branch membership

**Communications and External Relations –** our website and social media includes an exonomic security focus and Work Smart Online

**Public Policy and Research** – Conduct an annual meeting with a US Rep and/or state legislator around a strategic plan area of focus and appoint a branch policy chair to collaborate with the state policy chair,

collect Action Network sign-ups. (If you would be interested in this position, contact Karla.)

**Goverance and Sustainability –** Align planning with state and AAUW national strategic plans. Board should institute a succession plan for future leadership.