



Minutes of Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

Held Saturday, May 15, on the patio at The Ale House

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm. Members in Attendance: Virginia Brown, Jane Fitzgerald, Linda Heinrich, Anita Pisciotte, Peggy Rawlins, Kathy Singer, Sam Singer, and Susan Swift.

The AAUW Grand Junction Branch came together for their annual meeting. The subject of this meeting was the nomination of new leadership positions as the current two-year terms are coming to an end June 30th. The positions that were up for nomination were Branch President, Treasurer, and Secretary. At a previous meeting, three members—Kathy Singer, Virginia Brown, and Samantha Singer, respectively—had been nominated for the positions. No new nominees were announced at the Ale House meeting for these positions, or for the position of VP Membership or VP Programs.

With no additional nominees, Anita Pisciotte motioned to elect the three aforementioned members with Susan Swift seconding the motion. The motion was passed, and Kathy Singer will become AAUW Grand Junction Branch's new President; Virginia Brown, Treasurer; and Samantha Singer, the Secretary as of July 1, 2021.

As President-Elect, Kathy Singer brought attention to the Branch's lack of funds for the AAUW Women Veterans Scholarship that is awarded to a student at Colorado Mesa University or at Western Colorado Community College. The Branch hopes to eventually be able to have an endowment in place. However, in the interim, it was discussed that \$500-1000 be raised for the scholarship to continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.



Branch President Kathy Singer 261-2112
VP Programs Open
Secretary Samantha Singer 261-2216

VP Membership Open
Treasurer Virginia Brown 201-0386
Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684

From the President's Desk – Virginia Brown, Outgoing Branch President

As my tenure as President of the AAUW Grand Junction Branch comes to an end, I write this farewell note to all of you with a mix of happiness and some sadness. First, I would like to offer my thanks for all the support I have received during these past four years. As some can attest to, a few of the topics I have brought to attention have been met with various reactions—ranging from humor and agreement to discomfort and disapproval. However, I am heartened to know that they have had the opportunity to become the catalyst for a change as I firmly believe that uncomfortable situations are sometimes necessary for positive thought-provoking growth in both the individual and the collective, and I am grateful to know that some of our membership shares this stance.

As they are often wont to be, this presidential ride has certainly been eventful. One achievement of our local branch that I am incredibly proud to recount is that we were able to establish the *Women Who Make History Award* in 2019 and have since awarded it to two outstanding women in our community who have helped promote the mission of AAUW, even despite the social restrictions of COVID-19. Unfortunately, however, we were unable to give recognition to the second recipient with our fellows of the community. We hope to change that this year, so please look forward to 2021's ceremony! I am also pleased to say that during these four years, our branch has garnered the attention of both AAUW's state and national associations for our social media presence. The latter has even reshared some of our posted content!

It is with sadness, however, that I note we no longer have consistent funding for our *Women's Veteran Scholarship* at WCCC. We hope to eventually have a permanent endowment in place, but this will take time. In response to this, our new incoming president, Kathy Singer, has proposed publishing a revised second edition of *The Anecdotal Chocolate*, our branch's 2001 cookbook that was originally led by Lori Wood, in both physical and digital formats with a more modern section that will contain low-sugar and gluten-free recipes. Her goal is to use these proceeds to help fund the scholarship for at least the next few years. She and her staff have volunteered their time and are currently in the process of recreating the electronic files that are no longer accessible due to the ever-changing technological landscape. Please help support her endeavor by contributing new or additional recipes! Also, if any are unaware, we are now a 501(c)(3) organization, so please think of donating to help keep our branch going!

I would like to give several shoutouts to other board members for their endless work on multiple fronts for the Branch. Thank you to Jane Fitzgerald—former term-limited Treasurer and continuing member of the Program/Membership board—for a major and amazing overhaul of our website (<https://grandjunction-co.aauw.net/>). Please keep an eye on it as all our updates will be posted there. Thank you to Linda Heinrich for stepping into our at-large board position as a new member and working tirelessly with Jane to find us venues for the in-person meeting we have been able to hold. Thank you to Jean Yale—appointed Scholarship Chair—for a fantastic job coordinating with CMU and keeping us on track with our choice of scholarship recipients for the Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Scholarship.

Although this is my farewell as our branch president, I am looking forward to what the future holds as I step into the position as our branch's new Treasurer and as we move into our next phase. Thank you once more for all of your support!

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS: MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN

Many thanks to everyone who voted in AAUW's 2021 National Election. It took a mere three days to reach the required quorum—a testament to our members' passion and engagement.

Julia Brown and Malinda Gaul were re-elected as board chair and vice chair, respectively, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino will retain their board seats.

AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters. **The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds vote required to enact a bylaws change.** However, a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership.

While we have many voices, all AAUW members share a commitment to advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards diversity, equity and inclusion; it's a journey that will never end.

AAUW'S NEW RESEARCH REPORT, [*Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing*](#), explores the challenges women face in male-dominated industries and the barriers that hinder their success. The report outlines how employers can build a more competitive workforce by addressing these longstanding issues and creating more pathways for women in the manufacturing fields. You may also listen to a [webinar discussion](#) of the report.

AAUW of Colorado Sponsored Twelve Women to Attend the NCCWSL Virtual Event on May 25-26

This year, rather than the 2 or 3 women typically sent, AAUW of Colorado was able to send twelve scholarship recipients due to NCCWSL being online. Attendees for this year's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCSWL) were chosen from various branches throughout the state: Aurora, Colorado Springs, Durango, Fort Collins, **Grand Junction**, Littleton-South Metro, and Longmont. We look forward to hearing about their experiences in next month's *Connects*.

Our attendees are: Anna Duerst, Kelila Rose Fitch-Cook, Madysen Hunter, Victoria Kaufman, Chloe O'Brien, Vivian Onate, Destiny Palomares, Kandyse Patterson, Juana Rocha, Leslie Schenk, Victoria Scott, and **Samantha Singer**.



Samantha is a student at Colorado Mesa University and a member of the Grand Junction Branch.
Yea! Sam

Congratulations to our Scholarship and Grant Recipients

The Branch Scholarship Committee (Chair Jean Yale, Jane Fitzgerald, Anita Pisciotte, Linda Heinrich and Ingrid Ketcham) met on March 27 to review the many applications and choose deserving recipients. The Committee's recommendations were submitted to CMU Foundation who notified the students.

The **Mary Rait/Mary Jewell Willsea Endowed Grants Fund** (aka The Marys) is awarded to a non-traditional female student, who is an incoming or enrolled full-time junior or senior at Colorado Mesa University enrolled in any course of study. They must also maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average and show evidence of financial need.

The recipients of the award in the amount of \$1900 each for the 2021-2022 academic year are:

Sherry Buxton – majoring in Geosciences: Geology, Sherry is a single mother of three children and active in the Fellowship Church. At CMU she has launched fund drives to help children in the Foster Care System.

Emmy Maddalone – majoring in Nursing, Emmy is the mother of two young children and supporting a husband with kidney disease while maintaining a place on the Dean's List. She formerly worked in an USPS Encoding Center for 16 years

Susan Harris – majoring in Nursing, Susan already is a Certified EMT. She is the mother of three children, one of whom is blind and disabled. Susan is active with the National Federation of the Blind. Her husband devotes his time to the education of the blind child.

Leslie Howard – majoring in Nursing, Leslie is a single mother of a 10-year-old daughter and currently works part-time as a CNA. In the past she made a missionary trip to Thailand.

Nicole Wynter – majoring in Information and Communication Technology, Nicole has been homeless since the age of 18. She is very grateful to Karis for providing her shelter and support so that she can pursue her studies and would like to be their IT department after graduation. Nicole is employed as a student custodian at CMU.

Angela Simm – majoring in Early Childhood Special Education, Angela is a 42-year-old student who received the President's Award last year for maintaining a GPA of 4.0 for both semesters. As her school schedule and COVID school closures have allowed, she works as a substitute Special Education Paraprofessional.

The **AAUW Western Colorado Community College Scholarship** is awarded to a full-time female student enrolled in a non-traditional major. The applicant must show financial need and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Preference will be given to a sophomore.

This year's award of \$1,000 for the 2021-2022 academic year was awarded to:

Kayda Hunter – majoring in Sustainable Agriculture, Kayda is a single mother of a daughter and works as a server at Peach Street Distillers.

Special Interest Groups

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP On Hiatus until September

The Group still needs ideas for future books to enjoy. Whether you are a Jane Quimby Member or not, please send a list of recent books that you have read and would recommend to others. A brief description of the book would be appreciated. A list will be compiled and books chosen for future meetings.

Send these ASAP to Barb Boudreaux:

1504 Sprague Street, Mack, CO 81525 or at nannyo450@gmail.com.



Culture Club

The AAUW Culture Club is a loosely organized effort to inform members about movies, music and other cultural events in the Grand Valley. It is also a way to find others to attend these events with. Peggy Rawlins at 263-4741 is the contact person for the group.

The Regal Theater's website is offering advance tickets (no time of day listed) for:

July 11 – **Bolshoi Ballet: Coppelia** (encore 2021 performance) 3 hours

August 1 – **Bolshoi Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty** (encore 2021 performance) 2^{1/2} hours

Fathom Events offers Opera Performances, but nothing currently listed at the Regal or Picture Show...check back later?

July 28 – Live from **the Met: Carmen** (2010 performance) 3 hours

August 4 - Live from **the Met: Tosca** (2018 performance) 2^{1/2} hours

Saturday, June 12 @ 6:30 pm - GJSO presents: **Musical Stories with the Symphony**

Las Colonias Amphitheater, 925 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO 81501

Coffee & Chat Group



This informal (fun) group will meet on **June 26 at 9:30 am**....on the patio at Spoons Bistro & Bakery to try to solve world/local problems through discussion. There is no set agenda. Call Jane at 241-9684 with any questions.



AAUW is excited to announce a new professional development opportunity for early- to mid-career professionals: The Equity Network's [Social Change Ambassadors Certificate program](#).

This seven-week series of virtual learning and networking sessions is intended for individuals who want to make the world a better place by making workplace practices more inclusive and equitable. After completing the program, participants will earn a certificate that they can use on their resume and LinkedIn profile.

Beginning June 22, the curriculum covers:

- Intersectionality 101
- Communicating for Inclusion
- Unconscious Bias and Dominant Culture
- Advocacy & Action
- Leading the New Normal.

Is there a Social Change Ambassador in your life? Do you know a recent college graduate or a young person early in their career, perhaps aged 21 to 30? Encourage them to seize this opportunity. As an AAUW member and for only \$25, you can sponsor a young professional's journey to becoming a changemaker in their career field.

Space is limited. [Register your Social Change Ambassador](#) by June 21, 2021, to secure their spot! If you have any questions, email equity@aauw.org.

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you.
Those members celebrating a Birthday this summer are:

Mary Beth Buescher on June 8th Dunbar on June 16th
Barbara Boudreaux on July 2th Lorelee Kerr on July 14th Virginia Brown on July 29th
Jean Yale on August 26th

Treasurer's Year End Financial Report

for the two accounts at Alpine Bank from July 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

Money Market has three sub-funds: McClure Bequest (\$3,033.30), General Fund Reserves (\$2,500.00), and Miscellaneous (Interest Earnings). The overall balance in the account on July 1 was \$5,545.49, and on May 31 was \$5,546.00. The only change to the account was interest earned.

General Fund covers the day-to-day income and expenses of the Branch. Because of COVID and resulting ZOOM meetings, income and expenses were less than initially projected.

The opening balance on July 1 was \$2,053.39, which included \$364.00 of prepaid dues. Other than additional dues received during the year, and dues prepaid for the 2021-2022 year, the only other income items were donations of \$88.00, sales of T-shirts \$120.00 and interest earned of \$20.67.

Expenses paid during the year were \$22.00 for stamps for newsletter, \$140.00 for the T-shirts, \$196 for Insurance for the Branch, \$25.00 for a speaker gift, \$59.69 for plaque for Women Who Make A Difference Award, \$100.00 for fee to Colorado for Non-Profit status, and \$300 to CMU Foundation to increase WCCC Scholarship amount to the published \$1,000 amount (per Board approval).

The balance in the account on May 31, 2021 was \$1,746.58.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ???

Annual dues of **\$98.00** are due in one payment that needs to be received **by June 30, 2021**.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 7/1/2021 TO 6/30/2022

> Dues Total = \$98 (National \$62, State \$10, Branch \$26) (\$85 is tax deductible)

There are two ways to renew.

- 1. Renew and pay online with a debit or credit card.** Membership renewal emails were sent out on May 4, 2021. If you have not renewed, please look for the secure email from memberinfo@aauw.org. The link in the email is attached to your AAUW membership number. Once your renewal is processed, you will receive an email from EONsupport@aauw.org. Please contact Jane Fitzgerald if you have questions or need the email invoice.

Note: Do not sign in to aauw.org to make a payment.

- 2. Renew by check.** Make your check payable to AAUW Grand Junction Branch, and mail it to Jane Fitzgerald, Branch Treasurer at 2327 Eagle Point Court, Grand Junction CO 81507. Indicate if you wish to make an additional donation to any of the AAUW Funds.

Thank you to those members who have renewed already. Your dues payment allows us to create our upcoming fiscal year budget over the summer.