



## Tuesday, November 12, 2024

### **PROGRAM:** The VA Women Veteran Program

Marian Sinner Coleman, who is the PSA for the Women Veteran Program, will discuss how the Women Veteran Program provides oversight for the care and services that are provided here at VA Western Colorado Health Care System and by our community care partners to ensure that these women are treated with dignity, respect and in a safe environment.

### **LOCATION:** Western Region One Source Building, 482 28 Road, Grand Junction



This location is on 28 Road between Grand and North Avenues.

*Note: The Western Region One Source aims to become the trusted One Source in the Western Region of Colorado for all veterans, military service members, and their families seeking a connection with service providers and resources. It is the location of the former Colorado National Guard armory .*

### **MEETING TIME:** 11:45 AM .... promptly

*Note: We only have the meeting room for one hour.*

### **LUNCH:** Tequila's Mexican Restaurant, 2560 North Avenue, Grand Junction

Reconvene for lunch directly after the meeting. Lunch selection will be off the menu and paid individually. Tequila's does offer some vegetarian or gluten-free items and hamburgers. Here is a link to the menu: <https://www.tequilasgrandjunction.net/menu>. There is no planned program or speaker planned, just good conversation with friends.

**RESERVATIONS:** for lunch can be made with Bonnie Kosanke at 970-589-1320 or email at [bkosanke44@gmail.com](mailto:bkosanke44@gmail.com). This is needed for restaurant seating.

### **DID YOU REMEMBER ?**

On October 24 I sent you an email with an attachment of the proposed Grand Junction Branch's By-laws and asked you to read it before the November meeting, as at that meeting we will be asking for a vote to approve them. This is now that meeting. Please do read the information so that you can vote intelligently. Note that Articles I thru VII were mandated by National...and cannot be changed.

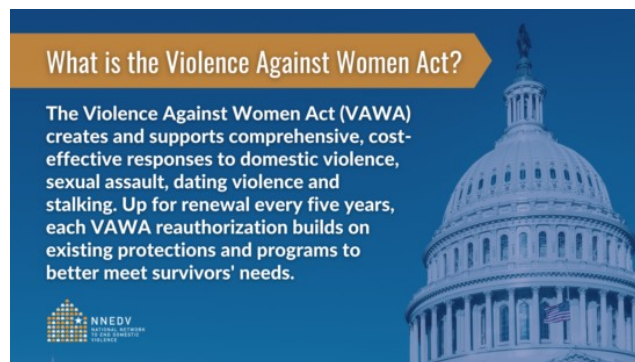
**Branch President** Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684  
**VP Programs** Bonnie Kosanke 970-589-1320  
**Secretary** Susan Swift 970-361-6517

**VP Membership** Lori Wood 970-234-5674  
**Treasurer** Karen Pieper Hildebrand 432-312-4747  
**Newsletter** Jane Fitzgerald 970-241-9684

## Save the Date

### AAUW of Colorado Public Policy Day - Violence Against Women February 1, 2025

The Violence Against Women Act turns 30 this year. The Bidens just threw a party to celebrate – and to remind us of its importance. What does the Act do? It provides funding and programs to help the recovery of women victims of violence. The most recent reauthorizations have included Indigenous women and LGBTQ persons in those benefits. Let this be your first reminder that Public Policy Day 2025 will explore Colorado’s legislation to counter Violence Against Women. Mark February 1, 2025 on your calendar now, and plan to join us to meet the lawmakers involved and hear their strategies to protect and improve women.



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## 🔔 The Annual Branch Holiday Luncheon 🔔

at the home of Carol Airoidi  
2528 Woody Creek Drive, Grand Junction

December 9, 2024

11:30 am

Plan to bring a potluck dish to share.

Also bring items to donate to the Closet at Central High School

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## What you missed Last Month

The tour of the Mesa County Elections Office, given by Mesa County Clerk & Recorder Bobbie Gross, was super informative. “I saw exactly how voting operated and learned things I never knew” said one participant. We were joined by at least one member from the League of Women Voters. Obviously, we have no photos to share, as they are prohibited inside the facility.

After the tour, members proceeded to the Goat & Clover Tavern where they and Bobbie enjoyed a tasty lunch.

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## Introducing two new Members to the Grand Junction Branch

Vicki Ladd Flanagan  
2170 Canyon View Drive, Grand Junction 81507  
[christopherflanagan@msn.com](mailto:christopherflanagan@msn.com)

Acquelnetta Yvette Myrick  
467 Margi Court, Grand Junction, CO 81504  
[yvette4854@aol.com](mailto:yvette4854@aol.com)  
443-562-5566

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## Coffee & Chat Special Interest Group



This fun and informative group will meet on **Saturday, November 23** starting at **9:30 am** at **Be Sweet Cafe & Bakeshop** in **The Conference Room**, 150 West Main Street, GJ.

Come when you can; bring a friend(s).

This month's **Discussion Topic** will be  
"Best Exercise...Brain or Muscle?".

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## IN MEMORIAM



Sadly, we announce the death of our long-time member Anita Tureck Pisciotte on Saturday, November 2. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her family in the ICU of Community Hospital. She had apparently not been well for several weeks, but continued on with her usual activities, so it was a shock when she passed within only a few days after having lunch with friends.

Anita had a PhD in Sociology from the University of Colorado. She was retired as head of Mesa Developmental Services. She was on the Board of the Art Center. She was a member of League of Women Voters. She belonged to The Reviewers Book Group. Anita had connections it seemed to almost everyone in town.

Anita will be greatly missed by those of us in AAUW who enjoyed her stories of growing up and dealing with the sexism she encountered in her studies and life.

## WHAT DOES AAUW NATIONAL DO?

AAUW operates at both the national and local branch levels, each with distinct roles and responsibilities.

**Policy Advocacy:** AAUW National focuses on national issues affecting women and girls, such as education equity, pay equity, and reproductive rights.

- We coordinate our Public Policy Committees, participate in coalition work and partner with other prominent National organizations to raise awareness about our policy priorities (such as the YWCA for our Gen Z Town Hall in Philadelphia).
- AAUW National provides monthly opportunities for cross-state collaboration and information sharing between our public policy chairs. We've been sharing training resources on voter engagement this summer & fall, and will be providing peer-to-peer capacity-building trainings for members who want to get more engaged in legislative advocacy (after the election!).
- In addition to supporting the work branches and states are doing in-state, the national policy team will also be sharing state-by-state data on the pay gap and providing targeted actions that our members can take to support federal solutions.

In essence, while AAUW National sets the strategic direction and focuses on broader issues, local branches implement programs and initiatives that directly benefit their local communities. Together, our aim is to work towards the common goal of advancing gender equity.

## AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

As the number of AAUW members has decreased, the amount of money from dues which can be used to support AAUW activities has also decreased. That is why we ask you to consider an additional donation to the Greatest Need Fund.

This fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge — whether it's a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #MeToo. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, we have the dollars we need to pivot as the national dialogue shifts — and get our work covered by major media outlets such as the New York Times, CNN and Fortune.

Greatest Needs is also what fuels our groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation.

Giving to Greatest Needs is a great way to ensure AAUW's continued visibility, relevance and sustainability. You may donate by checking a box when you renew your membership and/or going to the National website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and clicking on the large orange "Donate" box. On the donation form, please select "Use my gift where it's needed most" to contribute to this important fund.