



ANNUAL REPORT OF 2016-17 FY AND 2017-18 FY

Background: During the spring of 2016 and 2017, a survey of ALL members of the AAUW Capital (NV) Branch was conducted to provide information to the Branch Board of Directors to assist them in the development of Strategic Plans for the upcoming fiscal year. Surveys were conducted online with print surveys sent via USPS to members without email addresses. Slightly over 80% responded in 2016 and over 67% responded in 2017. Joint board meetings were held in June of each year to share information and to develop specific goals and objectives for the following year. Based on the feedback received from the surveys, a strategic plan for each fiscal year was developed and then implemented.

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives: Our branch goals and objectives are in alignment with the AAUW Mission: To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. While our branch goal is to facilitate and promote the purpose, programs, policies and mission of AAUW, our purpose was defined as promoting equity, lifelong education and positive societal changes.

Five main objectives were developed: 1) Membership – to recruit, engage and retain members; 2) Programs – to provide a variety of programs which highlight AAUW’s mission and public policy, while meeting the interests of our membership; 3) Public Policy – to bring awareness of AAUW’s Public Policy; 4) Philanthropy – to provide support for local scholarships, the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund (fellowships and grants) and other local community projects such as AAUW Work Smart; and 5) Community Collaboration – to collaborate with community groups such as League of Women Voters, Sierra Nevada Forms, Western Nevada College, and others to pursue common goals and principles focused on support of women and girls.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Membership: An annual membership fall brunch hosted by the Capital Branch Board of Directors “kicked off” each year. The September 2017 Brunch was held at the Governor’s Mansion in Carson City, Nevada to accommodate all members and guests. In the past two years, the membership has grown from 52 members to 68 members! The number of interest groups has expanded to provide additional opportunities for members to socialize and discuss items of interest. We are especially proud that 59% of our members are actively engaged in branch activities – attending membership monthly meetings, interest group meetings, volunteering, and other membership opportunities.

Programs: Our program co-chairs have presented a variety of outstanding speakers and topics for our monthly educational meetings. Using the data from the membership survey, subject matter experts were identified and invited to our monthly meetings for presentations on the priority issues. Thought-provoking, informational, and consistent with our public policy priorities, the speakers and topics certainly engaged our membership. Topics included: “Women Speaking Well: From the Private home to the White House,” Gender Pay Equity; International Refugee program; Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence; “The Middle East and the last 100 years of Turbulence”; “STEM” Education in the local schools, “Human Trafficking” and many more!

Public Policy: The membership was encouraged to become involved in the legislative process. Updates were provided in our monthly newsletter AND announcements were made at each

membership meeting regarding legislative issues being discussed at the state and national level. Members are encouraged to contact their legislators and to sign up for the Two Minute Activist.

Community Collaboration: Our branch collaborates with the League of Women Voters to provide candidate and issue forums. Other collaborators include Sierra Nevada Forums, providing fact-based information on topics, Western Nevada College, an AAUW college partner (providing their faculty and students with information), Adams Hub for Innovation (inviting their entrepreneurs to AAUW Work Smart) and use of their space for small meetings. Additionally, our membership meetings are held in the Ormsby Room of the Carson City Sheriff's Office.

Philanthropy: The AAUW Capital (NV) Branch sponsored two very successful fundraisers in both 2016-17FY AND 2017-18FY. Our annual fall sale of "fresh Georgia pecans" and our annual February "Feast of Chocolate" exceeded expectations providing the branch with funds to sponsor local high school graduating girls and WNC students with scholarships. During the two years, we funded scholarships for 4 high school girls and 2 WNC students. Additionally, we provided \$5,000 to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund for fellowships and grants. . AAUW Work Smart has been successfully implemented in the Carson City area – providing women (and a couple of men) with salary negotiation skills. Our first workshop in April 2017 was held at WNC. The October 2017 workshop was held at the Adams HUB in Carson City and our April 2018 workshop is also scheduled in Carson City. Feedback from the participants has shown a 150% improvement in their skills and 91% improvement in their confidence to negotiate.

Communication: AAUW Capital News (our branch newsletter) is emailed out to every member, approximately one week before the meeting date. Copies are mailed to those members without email. A phone tree has also been established to remind members of the general membership meeting deadlines and in some cases, an additional email blast is sent out to remind members of deadlines.

The branch website is maintained by our newsletter editor. The website is accessible to anyone wishing to find out more about the branch. There is a Members Only section which contains our membership directory. This section can ONLY be accessed by members with a passcode. Our Corresponding Secretary also communicates with our members – sending out thank you notes to our speakers as well as sponsors of our Feast of Chocolate. Additionally, she also sends out notes to members letting them know we are thinking of them when they are recovering from an illness or surgery – or have experienced a death in the family.

Overall – The AAUW Capital (NV) Branch has grown substantially over the past few years – not only in the number of members but also the active participation of our members. The attendance at our general membership meetings has continued to grow –indicating the selection of speakers and topics meet their needs as indicated in the responses to the member survey. Our members have continued to support our fundraising activities which in turn support local and national AAUW awards and local community projects. Our branch Board of Directors is actively engaged. Implementation of Square for handling credit card payments was instituted in 2017-18FY. Our membership is committed to the mission of AAUW and to our local purpose to promote equity, lifelong education and positive societal changes.