



AAUW Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Members,

Our fiscal year is almost over. It's been a remarkable year.

We endowed the Sandy Brown Scholarship Fund at the Fort Lewis College Foundation. This Fund will begin awarding scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year.

We launched the Butler Falkenstein Scholarship Fund at our holiday gathering in December. As of the end of April 2025 we have \$8,500 accrued in this Fund. We held our usual Fall Luncheon to fundraise for NCCWSL and the Spring Book and Author Luncheon to raise funds for the Butler Falkenstein Scholarship Fund. We had almost 40 attendees at the Spring Book and Author Luncheon – this included 6 guests! We enjoyed an entertaining presentation by Jennifer James Wheeling about the process of writing the first two historical fiction books in an expected 8 book series.

We awarded a Village Aid Travel Grant and the NCCWSL Grant. Read about these two remarkable young women in this newsletter.

We have 10 new members this year – 8 of them since January 2025! See the list of these 8 later in this newsletter.

And we lost our dear friend, Katherine Burgess, earlier this year. We will spend a little time at the end of our Annual Meeting remembering Katherine. You will have a chance to share your memories or stories about Katherine at this time.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 7, 2025 at 1:00 at Bowman Hall (419 San Juan Drive). We will have some Branch Business to handle and will discuss our financial position and fundraising results, as well as a few other rousing topics. We hope to see you all there.

Thank you to you all!

Your Board of Directors

Faye Schrater – President

Sharon Powers – Secretary Treasurer

Debbie Kurz – Membership Chair

Jill Donley – Scholarship Chair

Peg Kimple – DEI Chair





Community Partner Happy Hour

Fort Lewis College President Dr. Heather Shotton and AAUW Durango Branch President Dr. Faye Schrater chat at the Community Partner Happy Hour organized by the Fort Lewis College Board of Directors. The event took place at EsoTerra Ciderworks on April 10, 2025 (Photo: K Fine-Dare).

New 2025 Members

Marie Bjella
Dave Donley
Lisa Govreau
Jamie McNamara
Katy Olson
Maggie Pappineau
Lori Schell
Laurie Williams



Annual Meeting

The AAUW Durango Branch Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 7, 2025 at 1:00 at Bowman Hall 419 San Juan Drive.



Time To Renew

Debbie Kurz recently sent reminders to those whose membership expires at the end of May and June 2025. Please try to get your renewal completed by mid-June (it will help Sharon with year-end bookkeeping). If you have any questions about your renewal, please contact Sharon and/or Debbie.

[RENEW HERE](#)

2025 NCCWSL and VAP Grants



NCCWSL Grant 2025 awardee LaShaye Clemons

My Name is LaShaye Clemens and I am a mother of two young children, a Dine' woman, and a senior at Fort Lewis College. I will graduate in December 2025 with a major in Business Administration-Management and double minors in Marketing and Tourism & Hospitality. For the past 17 years, I have pursued my degree either as

a part-time student or in intervals while working full-time and having a family. I earned my associate's degree from San Juan College in 2022, and since then, I have been fully committed to completing my bachelor's at The Fort! In my future career, I will lead teams as a manager or executive in an industry that aligns with my values and aspirations. My greatest hope in such a role is to positively influence my team and community through teaching, service, and a commitment to ethical excellence.

Village Aid Project 2025 awardee Aubrey Peterson

Aubrey Peterson is a junior at Fort Lewis College studying engineering. She is passionate about finding creative solutions to tough problems and dreams of becoming a Global Engineer one day. Her goal is to make a real difference in the world by using her skills and knowledge to create lasting change. Aubrey recently traveled to the Navajo Nation to work on the VAP Solar project. This summer she is traveling to Zambia to participate in the VAP International Project.



Honoring Katherine Burgess an Incredible Woman

THE Durango HERALD

[Herald Obituary](#)

THE Durango HERALD

[Caricature](#)

THE Durango HERALD

[Opinion Piece by KB 3.28.25](#)

THE Durango HERALD

[Opinion Piece by KB 12.10.23](#)

[Comments by Faye Schrater at
Katherine's funeral](#)

[Poem by Pat Peterson](#)



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