



ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: 9 VOL: XXIII

May 2019



Founded in 1923, AAUW's Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

May 7 General Meeting



Our May General Meeting will be something a little different. We will meet **at 6:00 pm Tuesday, May 7** for our **Annual Meeting** at which we elect officers, adopt the budget, and review the convention. Join us Wednesday evening to **vote.....**

The Nominating Committee: **Rita Stopa** (Chair), **Deanise Marta**, and **LaJune Smith** are proposing the following slate of officers for 2019-2020:

- **Laura Bemis** for a 2-year term as Co-President, to serve until 6/30/21.
- **Linda Bennett** and **Anne Hubbell** to serve as Co-Vice Presidents, Programs. Anne will replace **Julia Bruner** and serve a 2-year term until 6/30/21, while Linda will replace **Marsha Ogden** and serve a 1-year term until 6/30/20, completing Marsha's two-year term.
- **Kimberly York** for a 2-year term as Co-Vice President, Membership, to serve until 6/30/21 and **Deanise Marta** to fulfill Laura Bemis' unexpired term (one year).
- **Maggie Reynolds** for a 2-year term as Secretary, to serve until 6/30/21.

There will be refreshments available for you to enjoy. The meeting will be at **Peace Lutheran Church, 1701 Missouri.**

There will be a drawing for a free membership at this meeting, as well as forms for becoming a member. We need a quorum of members, so please plan to attend.

Come Celebrate our AAUW Las Cruces Branch

Celebrate the conclusion of a very successful year and welcome new officers on **Tuesday, June 4**, at the **Sunset Grill** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at 1274 Golf Club Road.



Shrimp cocktail, green chile wontons, meatballs, veggie tray, chips and dip are on the menu for \$15. Please send your check payable to *AAUW Las Cruces* to **Christine Long**, at AAUW Las Cruces, Inc., PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004 no later than May 30th

From our President: Christa Slaton

Girls Can! celebrated its 25th anniversary in March with the largest participation in its history: 250 6th grade girls attended; more than 50 parents attended workshops; and 190 volunteers devoted time and talent. The fundraising goals for the program were surpassed, resulting in more than \$3,000 available towards the 2020 event. Much gratitude extended to **Kay Brilliant**, **Londa Seiffert**, and **Kay Williams** for leading this annual effort.

Our branch's support of Tech Trek also broke records. We had 14 nominations from our county this year compared to only seven last year. Four girls have been selected from Las Cruces schools, following reviewing the essays and conducting interviews. Huge thanks to **Judy McGuire** for leading the nomination efforts and recruiting so many of our members to contact each of our schools this year. In addition, your individual donations to Tech Trek have exceeded 2018 to date.

Laura Bemis led an Equal Pay Task Force to develop action plans for our branch. Other members were **Shirley Armstrong**, **Anne Hubbell**, **Cheryl Wilson**, **Julia Bruner**, **Kay Brilliant**, and **Londa Seiffert**. Our branch promoted the campaign to wear red on April 2, **Equal Pay Day** and members showed up in red at the Dona Ana County Commission's meeting on March 28th to hear their Proclamation supporting Equal Pay Day. The Las Cruces City Council also issued a Proclamation on April 1st with several of our members in attendance.

Also, on **Equal Pay Day** some of our branch Board members attended a course I teach at New Mexico State University on Women and Politics. The facts for my presentation came from extensive information found on the *aauw.org* website. The exchange between AAUW members and students was excellent and thought provoking.

This past year our branch awarded two scholarships to female students at New Mexico State University: Fall 2018 - \$862 and Spring 2019 - \$861. We also awarded a travel grant to a student, **Ana Garcia**, who received a scholarship to attend AAUW's *National Conference for College Women Student Leaders* in Maryland on May 29-June 1, 2019. Ana is an undergraduate student at NMSU

and member of AAUW, NMSU Affiliate. She attended our April General meeting to thank our members in person.

We are looking forward to hosting AAUW members from across the state for the AAUW-NM convention. **Kathie Davis** has been diligently working on this event for a year and has received assistance from many of our members. Our Historian, **Shirley Armstrong**, has spent many hours in the archives at the University to prepare a historical display for the convention. She gave us a little taste of some of the display at our April General meeting. It is fascinating! Kudos to the branch members who have assisted Kathie and Shirley.

At our April General Meeting **Maryln Zahler** treated us to some memories she has from membership in AAUW over several decades. As she recounted a few of her experiences, it became clear that women have come a long way, but Maryln reminds us forcefully that we still have a way to go to achieve equity for all. She donated \$100 to the branch when **Shirley Armstrong** was able to answer her challenge question: "What is the difference in the membership directory today compared to 50 years ago?"..... Five decades ago, the members were listed as "Mrs. John Doe." If the women were married, their personal names were not used. Thanks, Marlyn, for your inspiration and dedication to AAUW's mission!

Equal PAY!!!!



Local Government
Several AAUW LC Members visited our local government: Las Cruces City Council and Dona Ana County Commissioners for Proclamations.

The US House of Representatives passed the Paycheck Fairness Act HR 7 on March 27.

By passing this important bill, the House of Representatives has demonstrated its commitment to the economic security of American women and their families. We know there is a pay gap for all women, at every age, in every part of the country, and in nearly every industry. The gap has closed by less than a nickel in the 21st century, and it's obvious that something needs to be done to ensure families can thrive.

Now is the time to contact our N.M. Senators to support **S 270**. The Paycheck Fairness Act would: *(copy and paste below in your email to our Senators:)*

- Prohibit employers from using salary history, which ensures that salaries are not based on prior pay gaps that can follow workers from job to job.
- Protect against retaliation for discussing pay with colleagues, including stopping employers from being able to fire employees for sharing information. Greater transparency about salary is key to helping identify disparities.
- Ensure equal pay for equal work, requiring employers to prove that any pay disparities that exist between men and women are a business necessity and for job-related reasons.
- Support employers and employees to achieve fair pay practices,

including providing technical assistance to employers, requiring wage data collection, and offering salary negotiation training programs to give women the tools to advocate for higher wages.

Heinrich, Martin - (D - NM)

Class I

303 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-5521

Contact: www.heinrich.senate.gov

Udall, Tom - (D - NM)

Class II

531 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

(202) 224-6621

Contact: www.tomudall.senate.gov



AAUW National Election vote by May 14



Vote for **Julia Brown** to serve second term as AAUW Board Chair: "I'm currently the AAUW National Board chair, and I believe a lot has been accomplished during my term. My voice has been a strong one. I would like the opportunity to complete several collaborative efforts to increase AAUW's visibility and sphere of influence. I believe continuity of leadership is critical to the organization's continued growth and success. Having those who currently serve on the board and those who have served on national boards or in senior positions with other organizations would be a great benefit to AAUW, especially in the implementation of the new strategic plan and diversification and inclusion efforts."



For this vote, members are also asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities, in addition to electing members to the national board of directors. No amendments to the AAUW bylaws have been proposed by the Governance Committee or AAUW Board of Directors for the 2019 vote. Some members think that because we are not having a "live" National Convention this summer that they don't need to vote. We **NEED EACH** member to vote; we need a quorum in order to do business for the annual meeting. Some also think that if a candidate does not have an opponent they don't need to vote (for example, Las Cruces branch member **Julia Brown** is up for re-election to the position of National Board Chairman without an opponent but still needs each member's vote), as noted above, we need each member to cast a vote in this election!

Here is the [link](#) to find all the **information you need to vote**. By **May 14**, go to: AAUW National Election aauw.org/resource/national-election

For **information about the candidates**:

"AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881" aauw.org/board-candidates

For information about the **public policy priorities**: "2019–21 AAUW Public Policy Priorities" aauw.org/policy-priority/public-policy-priorities

Interest Groups



AAUW Las Cruces is fortunate to host several opportunities to get to know other members in small groups:

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet Monday, May 13th at 1:30 pm at the home of Cheryl Wilson to discuss **Cuckoo's Calling** by Robert Galbraith. If you aren't already a member of our group and would like to come to this discussion, please contact **Kay Williams**: kwilliams48@msn.com.

Anything Goes Book Group

Anything Goes Book Group will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday, May 13, at the home of Anne Chase to discuss **Savage Beauty, The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay**. For more information, please contact **Julia Bruner** at 522-1685 or julesnewmexico@gmail.com

Daytime & Evening Bridge Schedule

The AAUW *day-time bridge* group meets on the **2nd Thursday of each month** at **1:00 pm** to approximately **4:00 pm**.

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| May 9 | Rita Worrell |
| June 13 | Jo Ann Vincent |

2019 AAUW-Las Cruces Evening Bridge

The AAUW evening bridge group meets on **the 4th Tuesday of each month** (except December) **at 7:15 pm**.

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Apr 23 | Mary Berry |
| May 28 | Rita Worrell |

Contact **Carol Ann Council** for more information at 522-3313 or kk-ca_council@msn.com.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions discussion group will meet at 2:30 pm on Monday, May 20 in the Roadrunner Room at Branigan Library. The topic will be **Trade with China**. The group will not meet again until September.

Laugh and Learn Spanish

This interest group is full for 2019. If you are interested in learning Spanish, contact Donna Yargosz at yargoszdonna@yahoo.com or 312-2145 to get on a list for the Fall.

Going Places

Join the Going Places group on Thursday, May 16, to relax and enjoy an outing after our busy and productive AAUW year. We will start with the ***Luna Mimbres Historical Museum*** in Deming, a great local museum that offers free entry! The local history is on display in grand fashion at this awesome museum. You can learn all about the region's American Indians, cowboys and wild west. It's very informative and educational, amazingly large and very well presented.

From there we will make the 30-minute drive to Palomas, MX, for lunch at the ***Pink Store*** and of course, a bit of shopping. (Note: We will park on the American side and walk the couple blocks across the border. You will need either a passport or a photo ID for entry coming back to the US.)

Plans are also underway for a short visit to a special needs elementary school in Palomas where a number of Las Cruces women volunteer on a regular basis. We will likely leave Las Cruces around 9:00 am and return around 3:00 pm.

For those who prefer a shorter outing, there are several Deming restaurants that are quite good. Final decisions will be made and details for the trip will be provided to those who sign up. To reserve your spot, or for more information, contact **Shirley Armstrong** at 522-4570 or shirmike7@msn.com

Chinese Mahjong

Meets every Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 pm at the home of **Rita Worrell**. Newcomers are welcome. It is not a difficult game to learn!! Contact Rita at ritaworrell@gmail.com or 571-4363.

To Join an Interest Group:

If you want to join an Interest Group contact the specific group's coordinator (see your Yearbook). Some groups are "full" but you can always get on a waiting list.

All Above Board



Your Board voted:

Ana C Garcia Escalante, an AAUW student affiliate, has received a scholarship to AAUW's National Conference for College Women May 29–June 1, 2019 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The Las Cruces branch of AAUW has awarded her a travel grant to attend the conference. Ana is a Student Aide in New Mexico State University's International & Border Programs and serves as a Student Ambassador in the College of Agriculture where she is majoring in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management. *Congratulations Ana!*



Your elected and appointed Board of Directors meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 am at Peace Lutheran Church. **All** members are welcome to attend. This is a good way to find out how AAUW as an organization operates.

Membership



TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP!

Renewal of your AAUW annual membership for 2019-20 is now open!

The 2019-20 dues are \$97.

National \$59 (\$56 of the national dues are tax deductible)

State \$18

LC Branch \$20

Total: \$97

NOTE! Current and new members who wish their names and contact information to be included in the 2019-20 Yearbook must pay their dues no later than **June 30, 2019.**

Online Renewal You are no longer required to log-in into Member Services Database or know your membership number. **You will receive an e-invoice** including a *link* which will take you directly thorough the renewal process. Follow the prompts and you are done!

Renewal by U.S. Mail Send your check for **\$97** payable to AAUW-Las Cruces Branch, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1081 or give your check directly to Christine Long.

2019 Girl Scouts Women of Distinction Award

Since 2013, the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest (GSDSW) have annually held their **Women of Distinction Luncheon** in Las Cruces honoring women across Southern New Mexico, including Otero, Dona Ana, Luna, Grant, and Hildago Counties. We are seeking nominations of outstanding women who exemplify extraordinary civic and professional philanthropic commitment and achievement. These are women, who give of their time, talent, knowledge and skills developing programs or making contributions that impact the quality of life in our communities. They are the unsung heroes, whom we would like to acknowledge and honor as **2019 Women of Distinction (WOD)**. Nominees do not have to be former Girl Scout members or affiliated with the scouts or a troop.

Every year, AAUW has nominated members to be honored as a WOD, and annually one (or more) of our nominees has been chosen. This year we are asking AAUW members to consider someone they believe fits this criteria of a **Women of Distinction** to nominate.

Here is the link to the nomination form: [Women of Distinction Nomination](#) If you would like to nominate someone, please complete the online form, print and

return it to **Carol Ann Council**, 3115 Arrowhead Road, Las Cruces NM 88011 by **Friday, May 24**.. You can also email the form as an email attachment to kk-ca_council@msn.com. Contact Carol Ann directly for a copy of the Nomination form: 522-3313 or Judy McGuire at 932-9905.

All nomination forms will be reviewed and selected by an AAUW-LC appointed committee. The selected nominee forms will be forwarded to the Girls Scouts of the Desert Southwest WOD Committee, who will select the recipients. Only current AAUW members can be considered for AAUW's committee's review. (If you wish to nominate a non-AAUW member, please follow the instructions on the GSDSW nomination form to send directly to them for their consideration by **June 14**.)

Please, plan to attend the WOD Luncheon on September 17 from 11:30 am-1:00 pm at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum. Tickets will be available through AAUW so our members can sit together at an AAUW table. Further information and individual ticket prices will be available soon. We hope to have a strong representation of AAUW members to attend and support this wonderful event.

DONATE to **TECH TREK 2019**



AAUW Tech Trek NM, our summer STEM camp, is funded almost entirely with donations and grants. At least 30% of funding is from AAUW-NM members. A recent update to the Tech Trek website, techtrek-nm.aauw.net allows donations to be made online. Tech Trek is a 501(c) 3 organization; your donation is tax deductible. Please put Las Cruces Branch in the "notes" section. *Click on this green link to donate:*

DONATE

Communications

Many of the comments from the **Roundtable** discussions last Spring focused on Communication with membership. In addition to the Organ Mountain Views, OMV, we maintain a Website and Facebook page. Also, from time to time you will receive an email from either **Christa Slaton**, our President or **Kathy Cooke**, our Email coordinator.

[AAUW Website](#) is maintained by **Becca Galves**. Contact her for comments or questions or additions. (*click on link above: "AAUW Website"*)

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Lydia Hammond**. Be sure to like our page so you will get updates. (*click on link above: "Facebook" then "home"*) 38 people are following our Facebook page!

2019-2020 Yearbook

The "Yearbook" is our Branch's guide to meetings, activities, members and other important information for YOU. It is printed and



distributed each September. PLEASE review your member listing in the current Yearbook and contact **Judy McGuire** for any changes by June 30 at judymcguire2@gmail.com



Thinking of you.....

Please contact **Judy McGuire** by phone (575-932-9905) or email: judymcguire2@gmail.com when you hear of another AAUW-LC sister who would appreciate a card from AAUW-LC to cheer her up, provide condolences, offer congratulations or "get well" (click **on the** email address as a direct link to your email provider)



Of note.....

A big THANK YOU from Kay and Londa for a SUCCESSFUL GIRLS CAN!! 2019



Donate Plastic Bottle Caps



Carol Ann Council is collecting **plastic bottle caps** (any kind) for cancer. One of Carol Ann's employees takes them to St. Genevieve's Church where an individual from Mexico comes once a month to collect them. He takes them back to Mexico

where the funds from the caps are used for **cancer projects** – dialysis, prostheses, treatments, etc. This is an on-going project. Carol Ann is willing to collect the caps from members at any AAUW function. You may contact Carol Ann at kk-ca_council@msn.com or 522-3313.

Please keep up the kind work.....this collection has no end (at this time).

Happy Spring!!



*Cally Williams Pottery
331 Capri Arc, Las Cruces, NM
575-526-5250 callwill@hotmail.com*

Comments and questions

If you wish to advertise in our newsletter, please contact **Judy McGuire** by email. The cost is \$50/year. If you have suggestions for our newsletter or would like to see other changes, please also contact Judy at:
judymcguire2@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



AAUW-LC, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004

Las Cruces Website

New Mexico Website

National Website