

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

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January, 2023



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

NOTE: If reading this in email or online, click on [view entire message](#) when you get to the end, as the OMV may be "clipped."

****Also, remember that words [underlined in bright blue](#) are links to click on for additional information.****

Happy New Year to all.....Karen Dumont, Editor



General Meeting

The next general meeting will be Saturday, January 14, 2023.

The program in January will be presented by **Kimberly York**, Director of the Black Education Bureau of the New Mexico Public Education Department. Ms. York will discuss the **Black Education Act**, which was passed by the NM Legislature in 2021. The Black Education Act (BEA) was created to improve Black Education within New Mexico for public, chartered, and post-secondary schools. The bill aims to improve graduation rates for African American students graduating from high school and post-secondary institutions.

Meetings are held at the Dona Ana Community College Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88001. Social time begins at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00 AM.



Thirty-six members and guests attended our Holiday Luncheon at the Sunset Grill on December 10th. The luncheon was a success. We had a variety of holiday table decorations, and each place setting had a beaded "icicle." All in all, it was good food and even better company. It was great to see our previous Board member, Fran Plec, visiting us.

Barbara Williams, Program Co-chair

From our President **Anne Chase**



We've had a wonderful year. We are growing back our membership, meeting in person again, and getting excited for our Centennial Year in 2023.

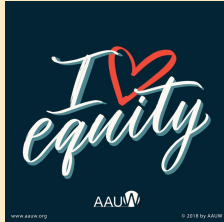
Girls Can! is going to be held again in person at Doña Ana Community College. Donna Yargosz and Laura Bemis have been working on this Spring centerpiece event. We've had great responses for volunteers, but if you haven't offered yet, please do so. If you have a few hours in the morning, that's enough. And we thank you in advance.

We held our Holiday Luncheon at Sunset Grill on Saturday, December 10th. We had many members attend and had a great,

joyful time. There was a highly successful Silent Auction. Our members are so generous! And we hope they were happy with their acquisitions! There were some great wines, jewelry, and art pieces among other items.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2023!

Anne Chase
President



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

REDISTRICTING

AAUW is part of Fair Districts for New Mexico (FDNM) and Robbie Richards, AAUW-SF Public Policy Co-chair, is our representative. During the upcoming legislative session, FDNM will try again to get a resolution passed allowing NM voters to pass a Constitutional amendment (CA), creating an Independent Restricting Commission (IRC). An IRC would remove the inherent conflict of interest when legislators can draw their own districts.

In the past, legislators were adamant about not relinquishing their Constitutional authority to draw district lines. However, the legislative session that begins on January 17, 2023, has leadership changes in the Senate Rules Committee and House Speakership. These changes are key and could mean times are changing.

In September 2022, FDNM released poll findings showing 77%^[1] of NM voters favored an IRC, with only 12% opposed. This indicates that a CA would likely pass if one gets on the ballot.

Representative Natalie Figueroa (District 30, Bernalillo County) plans to file a House Joint Resolution (HJR) for a CA, which would put the question of creating an IRC on the 2024 ballot. If the legislature passes the HJR, NM voters, with a simple majority, will have the chance to assign responsibility for redistricting to an IRC. We would join nine^[2] other states in creating a non—politician commission.

[\[1\] NM Redistricting Partners News Release Final.pdf](#)

[\[2\] State-by-state redistricting procedures](#)

Ruth Jaure, Public Policy Chair

ACADEMIC OUTREACH

A reflection on 2022 should make us feel proud of the work done by our branch to provide **thirteen scholarships** to women in Las Cruces. We funded four \$500 True Grit Awards, eight \$500 NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarships, and one NCCWSL Registration Scholarship for



\$6,275!

Did you know that in the 2022-23 academic year, AAUW awarded over \$6 Million in fellowships and grants nationally?

Let's keep up the good work in 2023!

"If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation."--African Proverb

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Preparing for our Centennial Celebration in 2023

What and Who are the PPPs?

Do you know there is a group called the PPPs in our AAUW-LC branch? You know many of us and see us at meetings and participating in various capacities. We have played a big part in our branch history, some of us for more than 50 years. We have worked for the progress of women and girls for decades and continue to support our branch in many ways. We are the **Past Perfect Presidents!** Not that we have any exalted views of ourselves! Our name is only playful wording that reflects the teaching backgrounds of many of us. And it sounds much nicer than calling ourselves the PPs!

As part of our Centennial Celebration, beginning next month you'll hear from Freddie Olhausen Finkner, who served as our board president from 1962-1965. How was our branch different in those years, and how was it the same? More importantly, what was the status of women's rights and our progress in achieving pay equity? Look for the PPP monthly tidbits in the OMV.

Shirley Armstrong, Centennial Celebration - History of the Branch Chair

Countdown to Girls Can! 2023 March 4th

Girls Can! Saturday, March 4, 2023 will be the 27th year that AAUW-Las Cruces members unite to offer 6th-grade girls in Doña Ana County an all-girl career exploration conference. Seven AAUW-LC members volunteered at Girls Can! at Desert Hills



Elementary in 2021.

The location, Doña Ana Community College, East Mesa Campus, offers the girls a real college experience. We expect to host 300 girls. Each girl will receive a t-shirt and backpack filled with inspirational goodies and have a light breakfast. Girls will arrive in groups on buses with school counselors and individually with their parents. With our volunteer presenters, student volunteers, students, counselors, and parents, AAUW-Las Cruces members will play a major role in the event's success.

Volunteers have the choice to work on a variety of tasks. Greeters, registrars, guides, workshop facilitators/assistants, girl lunches, and adult t-shirts. It takes a village to get this day off to a great start. It takes many supportive, enthusiastic women to carry this fantastic event to Noon on March 4th. Are you signed up to volunteer for Girls Can!? We are counting on our members. Please contact **Londa Seiffert** to volunteer.

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator



HerStory

Credited as the “Mother of Title IX,” **Patsy Mink**, the first woman of color to serve in the U.S. Congress (from Hawaii, starting in 1965), played high school basketball on a half court, as at the time full-court basketball was deemed too physically demanding for girls. Mink wanted to pursue a medical career but was rejected by all medical schools to which she applied. She went instead to law school.

After fighting for the right to take the bar exam, she became the first Japanese American woman to pass the bar in Hawaii. That was not the end of the barriers Mink faced. She was denied a job at a law firm because she was a married woman; also, she couldn't start a law practice because she had married a man who was not from Hawaii, and the law was such that she was considered a non-resident. During her terms in Congress, Mink pursued legislative reform in education and health care. After her death, the U.S. House of Representatives renamed Title IX the Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Submitted by Carol Ann Council

Membership Matters

Please consider bringing a guest to General meetings and Interest Group meetings (with an OK from the host). Our Branch has **92** paid members and is the largest Branch in NM.

Click here for a pdf of the [2022-2023 Membership Brochure](#) that you can give to prospective members. Note: Anyone joining after March is joining for

the rest of this year and all of next year (through June 30, 2023)

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

Here is our (tentative) program calendar for the **2023** year. Meetings are held on the second Saturday at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. The program begins at **10:00 am** preceded by a "social time" from 9:30 - 10:00 am.

January 14th

Black Education Act - Kimberly York

February 11th

Title IX and Office of Institutional Equity

March 4th - Girls Can

No General Meeting

April 8th

Equal Pay or Gender & Sexuality Studies

May 13th

Election of Officers for 2023-2024
Lynn Gallagher - Mental Health and Self Care

June 10th

Year-end Luncheon TBA

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Program Co-VP

Interest Groups

Please use your Yearbook for member addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.



Anything Goes Book Group will meet January 9 at 1:30 pm to discuss/ *Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith at location TBD - Hybrid. Contact: **Anne Chase**

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet January 24 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Two Nights in Lisbon* by Chris Pavonne, at Linda Bennett's home. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime & Evening Bridge Our daytime bridge group will meet on January 12 at 1:15 pm at a location to be determined. Our evening bridge will meet at 7:15 pm January 24 at a location to be determined. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions examines the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans today. Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places

Contact: (this Coordinator position is open, contact Anne if interested). This is a fun group that visits interesting local places!

Chinese Mahjong Hong Kong Style, or Chinese Mahjong, meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm at Rita Worrell's home. Instruction is available for beginners. Contact: **Rita Worrell**

International Dining meets periodically at member homes to enjoy a home-cooked meal and good conversation and will resume soon. Contact **Suzie Ostrem** to volunteer your home and cooking talent.

Want to know more about an Interest Group?

Contact the named "**contact**" for each Interest Group described above. Interest groups offer an opportunity to get to know other AAUW LC members in a more relaxed and informal environment. All are welcome.

Thinking of you.....

When you learn of a member who has medical issues, personal loss, or a reason for celebration or recognition, please contact **Judy McGuire** by phone or text at 575-932-9905 or email judymcguire2@gmail.com so she can show our support with a personalized card. *(click on the email address as a direct link to your email provider)*



All Above Board



Click here for your copy of the 2022-2024 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2022-2024 Officers](#)

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All members are welcome. Once the Board meeting minutes are approved, they are posted here for your review.

[Board Minutes](#)



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Other AAUW Membership Benefits

Access to member benefits at AAUW.org with your membership number assigned by AAUW and located inside the cover of your Yearbook. Benefits include discounts at UPS, Office Max, Travel companies (Hertz, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Thrifty car insurance, Colette Tours, Cruises Only, TNT Vacations), and Insurance (Geico, Pet insurance, LTC Insurance, Identity Insurance, and others).

The AAUW website is also chocked full of helpful information for girls and women including access to numerous scholarships and grants. For details, see AAUW.org. (click the link)

Communications

In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website and Facebook page. All Branch emails will be sent by **Anne Chase**, President, and/or **Kathy Cooke**, Email Coordinator.

[AAUW-LC Website](#) is maintained by **Judy McGuire**. Contact her with comments, additions, or questions.. (click on the link above: "AAUW-LC Website")

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Laura Bemis**. Each of us may contact Laura with suggested additions, photos, etc. Be sure to "like" our page so you will get updates. (click on the link above: "Facebook")

*NOTE: There are three **green tabs** at the end of this newsletter that will take you directly to our website, AAUW NM website, and/or National AAUW's website.*

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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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

[Las Cruces Website](#)

[New Mexico Website](#)

[National Website](#)