

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: 2 VOL: XXVII

October 2022



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.****

Karen Dumont, Editor

Have you checked out our External Communications?

[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.

General Meeting

Our next General Meeting is **Saturday, October 8**. The program is a **surprise** you will not want to miss, so "see you there". We will begin with a social time at 9:30 am with the Program following at 10:00 am. You can still pick up your **2022-2023 Yearbook** if you missed the last General Meeting. In addition:

For Sale at General Meeting

At our AAUW-LC General Meeting on October 8, the following items will be for sale, all with a Fall/Halloween/Day of the Dead theme:

earrings - \$2/pair

bracelets - seed beaded on memory wire - \$5

cute beaded spiders - \$5

wine charms - \$5

themed "icicles": beaded hanging wires to put on a tree,
in a plant, on a gift package = 2 for \$5

All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. Cash or checks only, please.

Prices range from \$2 to \$10, with most at \$5. We will accept cash or checks (made out to AAUW-LC). All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

If you have any questions or requests, please contact Donna Yargosz, dyargosz@gmail.com or 575-312-2145.

RoseAnn Hernández & Barbara Williams, Co-VP Programs

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If you missed our first meeting of the year, here are some photos.



#### **AAUW LC 2022-2023 Elected Officers:**

Marsha Hokkanen, Immediate Past President; Christine Long, Treasurer; Rita Worrell, Secretary; RoseAnn Hernandez, Co-Program VP; Lynn Lord, Co-Membership VP; Lori LaPlanche, Co-Membership VP and Anne Chase, President. (not pictured: Barbara Williams, Co-Programs VP)



#### **AAUW LC Appointed Officers**

Donna Yargosz, Special Projects Chair; Judy McGuire, Communications Chair; Kay Brilliant, Fundraising Chair and Parliamentarian; Ruth Jaure, Public Policy Chair and Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator. (Not pictured: Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair and Bylaws/Policy Chair; Kathy Cooke, Email Coordinator; Pat Lawson, Media Relations Chair and Karen Dumont, OMV Editor)

**From our President**

## Anne Chase



Our first General Meeting was a great success with many members in attendance and getting involved in our activities.

Our **2-Year Focus Group** has prioritized Education, Training, and Membership as the areas on which we will focus. Thank you, **Laura Bemis**, for your leadership in this endeavor!

Due to a change in the counselor staff, we cannot continue the **Sierra Middle School Holiday Project**. The funds allocated to this project have been moved to the True Grit Scholarship fund. Many thanks to **Donna Yargosz** for the successful Holiday Projects over the past few years!

This year, under **Ruth Jaure's** leadership, we will continue planning for our centennial celebration in 2023. We have reserved a space at Hotel Encanto for the big luncheon event in October 2023. Watch for future notices.

**This year voting is even more important than usual.**  
PLEASE **VOTE** this November!

### **Anne's Introductory remarks at Initial AAUW LC General Meeting for 2022** [AAUW.ORG](http://AAUW.ORG)

#### **WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?**

##### **Our Values**

##### **Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral:**

We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination and enable women's success.

##### **We work to narrow the pay gap.**

We champion equal opportunities in education. Although more than 60% of college graduates are women, we still face barriers. Our national website is a vast resource we have not emphasized enough.

##### **Work Smart Program**

Our online salary negotiation classes in which you can determine your personal values, set your target salary and benefits, and create your negotiation strategy.

##### **Financial Literacy**

The AAUW "Money Smart" is a series of online workshops to teach you what you need to know to manage - and grow – your money.

##### **Fellowships and Grants**

AAUW has awarded over \$135 million in fellowships and grants to more than 13,000 scholars and organizations in 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam, and 150 countries, one of the most extensive scholarship

programs for women in the world. At the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) hundreds of college women from around the country come together for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking.

### **STEMed for Girls**

Created for girls in 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. A series of informative and engaging virtual workshops that help pave the way for success through high school, into college, and eventually on to a career.

### **Legal Advocacy**

AAUW does not provide legal advice or referrals. But it does provide women with information so that they know their rights and how to find legal help.

AAUW National helps fund plaintiffs seeking legal redress for equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and tenure denial violations.

(There is a list of cases on the website.)

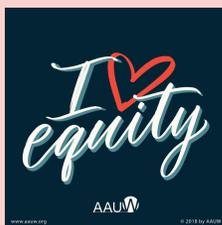
### **Take Action!**

The website has a variety of options for action at the national, state, and local levels.

Go to: [aauw.org/resources/member](https://www.aauw.org/resources/member) and

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/>

AAUW resources and policies AAUW supports are laid out clearly.



## **PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE**

Our state's national ranking for child well-being fell to **50th** in the latest **Kid's Count** report. **1** In November, voters will have a chance to change this disheartening situation. If voters pass Constitutional Amendment #1 (CA1), they will approve more funding for the Permanent School Fund (PSF). An additional \$150 million annually will be available for early childhood education, including high-quality childcare.

In May, the state took its initial step toward getting more preschoolers into nurturing learning environments. We became the first state in the country to begin waiving childcare subsidy copayments. We also became the first state to make childcare free for one year for nearly all residents. These offerings, though, are only temporary as we are using federal American Rescue Plan funding to support this initiative, which will end in mid-2024.

Childcare is a financial challenge for many parents, especially single working mothers. Not paying for it will save about 30,000 families hundreds of dollars a month, which they can put toward household necessities and bills in these inflationary times.

With sustainable funding, New Mexico can continue to create lasting improvements in child well-being to make the state a better place for our youngest children to learn and grow successfully.

Ruth Jaure, Public Policy Chair

## ACADEMIC OUTREACH



**Did you know that New Mexico has emerged as a leader in our country for tuition-free higher education?!**

In March of 2022, Governor Grisham signed bipartisan approved SB 140, The New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Act, making college tuition-free for most New Mexicans. This new law allocates almost 1% of the state's budget (\$75 million this fiscal period) toward covering tuition and fees at public colleges and universities, community colleges, and tribal colleges. Continuing to fund the program will need to be addressed each budget year.

New Mexico's tuition-free college program includes the NM Lottery Scholarship for recent high school graduates (or equivalent) who enroll full-time and the Opportunity Scholarship for returning adult learners, part-time students, and students pursuing specific high-demand career training certificates. More information on these and other state scholarships, grants, and college financial aid programs available can be found at <https://hed.nm.gov/free-college-for-new-Mexico>.

The NM Lottery Scholarship has been a state-funded program since 1996 and has helped around 135,000 students attend college, according to the Legislative Finance Committee. The Opportunity Scholarship program was started in 2020 and, with its expansion in 2022, could support up to 35,000 students this fall alone.

Thank you for your ongoing support of AAUW/AAUW-LC grants and fellowships and local scholarships and awards!

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."-W.B. Yeats.

*Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair*



## Preparing for our Centennial Celebration in 1923

After a summer break, the Centennial Celebration Committee met in September. We are making progress on key ideas while continuing to consider new activities.

Even though we were on break, committee members weren't idle. The "History of the Branch" subcommittee, led by former president **Shirley Armstrong**, met over the summer. Shirley brought several past presidents together to share

stories about their years as our leaders in a world much different than today. I'm sure you can imagine the rich exchanges our former leaders shared about their experiences and their roles in changing our organization while moving women forward. They will bring a historical perspective to our celebration, helping us look back from our current vantage point.

The committee has begun working with **Pat Lawson**, the branch's Media Coordinator, to identify ways to involve local newspapers, radio stations, and magazines. The goal is to let our community know we've reached this milestone and our impact in the past as well as now.

Lastly, **Kay Brilliant** spearheads the celebration's fundraising and has creative ideas for filling our coffers. Stay tuned!

*Ruth Jaure*, Historian

## [Girls Can!](#)

**GIRLS CAN! is Saturday, March 4, 2023,  
at DACC East Mesa Campus**



### ***What is Girls Can! ?***

- The goal of *Girls Can!* It is to increase equitable education for all women. At this conference, 6th-grade girls get first-hand opportunities to explore STEM-focused careers. *Girls Can!* offers 20 different workshops for our 200+ participants to select from. Each workshop is led by a professional female role model from each field.
- The magic of this event is the beautiful opportunity for AAUW-LC members to work side by side with our community to help these girls begin to dream and plan for a successful future.

### **How to get involved:**

- We need members to check their calendars for March 4, 2023. If you are available, we ask that you volunteer for one of the opportunities. During the conference, volunteers will meet and greet girls and workshop presenters, register new participants, hand out T-Shirts, give directions, assist presenters in their workshops, host our refreshment table, and other tasks. *Girls Can!* opens at 7:00 am and finishes up at about noon.
- If you would like to help but are not available to be at *Girls Can!*, we need volunteers starting in October. We will be visiting schools, collecting giveaways for the girl's backpacks, registering and placing girls in workshops, making name tags, along with a few other tasks.

### **Contact Your *Girls Can!* Coordinators**

Laura Bemis [lkbemis@gmail.com](mailto:lkbemis@gmail.com) 307-277-4902

Jo Latorre [joannlatorre.112@gmail.com](mailto:joannlatorre.112@gmail.com) 914-552-1512

**We will be recruiting volunteers at our  
General Meetings and through the OMV.**

## "Her Story"

The year 2022 marks 50 years since the passage of **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX provided many advances, including women's participation in a wide range of high school and college athletics. Many women – and men – worked to make Title IX a reality. Let's learn about some of these trailblazing women through the following few issues of the OMV:

Submitted by *Carol Ann Council*



In 1960, at thirteen years old, swimmer **Donna de Varona** competed in her first Olympics. Four years later, she won two gold medals. Despite her swimming prowess, de Varona was unable to go to college on scholarship as no scholarships existed for female athletes. She thus became a strong advocate for Title IX. The first female television sportscaster, de Varona is one of the founders of the Women's Sports Foundation and served as its first President. She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

## Donating ideas

In keeping with our mission of Advocacy, every month we will post one or two non-profit programs that would benefit from your monetary donations.

**This month:**



## Children's Reading Alliance

LC-AAUW and CRA share a joint commitment to women, children, and education. Former AAUW LC President, and current member, **Rorie Measure** is the founder and has led the Children's Reading Alliance (CRA) for the past six years. Many AAUW members are active volunteers and donors. CRA is a non-profit 501(C 3) providing urgently needed literacy and educational readiness programs for children and families. CRA volunteers distribute thousands of books to children and serve as reading mentors for struggling beginning readers.

The pandemic and widespread school attendance interruptions have calamitous effects on all children but especially beginning readers. CRA is adding programs that will bring immediate assistance.

A cash or check donation allows CRA to purchase books suitable for children at a discount. To donate, visit: [Childrensreadingalliance.org](https://www.Childrensreadingalliance.org) and click on

"Donate." You can also mail a check to: CRA, 3880 Foothills Road, Las Cruces, NM 88011. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

*Kay Brilliant, Fundraising Coordinator*

## **AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR**

Here is our (tentative) program calendar for the rest of the **2022-2023** 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.

### **November 12th**

Kelly Hestir & United Military Women of the SW and  
Sam Jones from the Las Cruces Veterans Center

### **December 10th**

Holiday Luncheon  
Sunset Grill

### **January 14th**

Black Education Act - Kim 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-VPs*

## **Membership Matters**

Please consider bringing a guest to general meetings and Interest Group meetings (with an OK from the host). Our Branch has **86** 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)

Please make the following correction in your Yearbook:

**Barbara McIntosh's** phone number should be 720-683-2579 on page 26.

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AAUW Community Hub Login Instructions

Access your Personal Snapshot in the Community Hub in one of 3 ways:

- 2. Click **FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD** if logging in for the first time, have forgotten it, or if your log-in failed.
- 3. Click **DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT** if you are not yet a member or affiliated with AAUW.

You will find the links below the blue LOG IN banner. Click on one for "Forgot your password or Don't have an account."

Please do not create a new account if you are an existing member.

For help, connect@aauw.org.

Lynne Lord & Lori LaPlanche, Membership Co-VPs

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on October 10th at 1:30 pm at Shirley Armstrong's home to discuss "An Invisible Thread" by Laura Schrof and Alex Tresniowski . Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on October 24th at 1:30 pm at Judy McGuire's home to discuss "The Last Chance Library" by Freya Sampson. Contact: **Kay Williams**

Daytime & Evening Bridge Our daytime bridge group will meet on October 10th at 1:15 pm at Shirley Armstrong's home. Our evening bridge will meet on September 27th, home of Carol Ann Council, at 7:15 pm. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will meet on October 18 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM to discuss No End in Sight: A Century of Drug Wars." The Briefing paper is written by Dr. Monica Serrano, Professor of International Relations at El Colegio de Mexico. AAUW members considering joining this lively group for 2023 are welcome to attend. Contact Susan Hychka for more information and the Zoom link.

Going Places

Contact: (this Coordinator position is open, contact Anne or Marsha 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. The first meeting of the year will be hosted by **Deanise and Michael Marta** on October 29th. Details will be

forthcoming. Contact **Suzie Ostrem** to volunteer your home and cooking talent.

Want to know more about an Interest Group?

The **Great Decisions Interest Group** holds eight or nine monthly discussions each calendar year. We prepare using a briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association in November.

In the one hundred and four years since FPA's founding, millions of Americans have engaged with FPA to seek a more profound understanding of global challenges and to gather the facts that underpin effective policies. As FPA President and CEO Noel Lateef says in his introduction to the 2022 edition, "At FPA, we do not believe that global challenges are too complex for the public to understand when clearly briefed. Not to a limited circle, therefore, but to all, FPA extends an invitation to join an open dialogue on our collective future in an interdependent world."

After our summer break, we will resume our 2022 discussions via Zoom on Tuesday, September 20, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. September's topic was "Xi's China takes on the Quad." A nine-page briefing by the President and CEO of the Asia Society, Kevin Rudd, helps describe the issues, starting with introducing the Quad, a Quadrilateral Security Dialogue among the United States, Japan, India, and Australia. Like all FPA briefings, links to a companion glossary and suggested readings are included.

AAUW members interested in joining these discussions are welcome. Contact Susan Hychka to borrow a copy of the September briefing paper if you like. And/or add your name to those who want to purchase Great Decisions 2023 and participate starting in January 2023. Books include eight or nine briefing papers and cost about \$35.

Group members will review our recent decision to meet via Zoom from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month as COVID risks change.

Susan Hychka, Coordinator

AAUW Diversity Report

Diversity Report presented at AAUW NM Leadership Team Meeting
Kathie Davis – Chair
July 25, 2022

As the new Diversity Chair, I explore AAUW's goals and tools for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY (From AAUW's Strategic plan)
GOAL: Implement continuous improvement and best practices in governance, inclusion, and organizational functioning.

- *Embody the goals and spirit of equity, inclusion, diversity, and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants, prioritizing women of color. Conduct a Strength, Weaknesses,*

Opportunity, and Threats (SWOT) of AAUW's work to ensure inclusion and equity lens and review of structural racism in all work.

AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tool kit can be found at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

• **Some US Census Data:**

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/dashboard/NM,US/RHI825221>

Quick Fact Data
USA listed first
New Mexico listed second

Black or African American	13.6%
	2.7%
American Indian	1.3 %
	11.2%
Asian	6.1%
	1.9%
Hispanic or Latino	18.9%
	50.1%
White (not Hispanic or Latino)	59.3%
	35.9%
Bachelor's Degree or higher (25 yrs or greater)	32.9%
	28.1%
Persons in Poverty	11.4%
	16.8%
Language other than English spoken at home	21.5%
	33.5%
Total Population	331,449,281 US
	2,115,877 NM

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. Meetings are open to all members.

Thinking of you.....

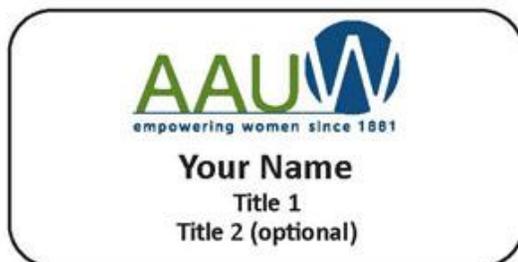
When you learn of a member who has medical issues, personal loss, or a reason for celebration or recognition, please contact **Judy McGuire** by phone or text at 575-932-9905 or email judymcguire2@gmail.com so she can show our support with a personalized card. (click **on the** email address as a direct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



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<http://salary.aauw.org>



Order your personal Name Badge at [AAUW Name Badge](#). Just \$10.00.

(click on the underlined link)

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)

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judymcguire2@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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