

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE 7 : VOL: XXVIII

March, 2024



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
Judy McGuire, Photo Editor*

Girls Can!

Girls Can! is Saturday, March 23rd.

We hope you all have had a chance to volunteer for Girls Can! Our volunteer coordinator, Jeanette King, is organizing the volunteers. Reach out to her if you haven't had a chance to sign up.



We are holding a Facilitator Training on Saturday, March 9th. We will meet at the Branigan Library at 10:00 in the Conference Room. Facilitators help with the Workshops.

All volunteers signed up to help that day will get an email the week before March 23rd with assignments and any other last-minute information.

Set-up Day Has Changed: Our set-up day is Thursday, March 21st. We will gather at DACC, at the Student Resources Building and deliver all the various Girls Can! T-shirts, backpacks, girl breakfast bags, nametags, door signs etc. If you would like to help and/or tour the campus? Meet us there at 3:30 pm.

We are looking forward to another spectacular Girls Can. It will take all of us to make a successful event. Thanks to all in advance for giving your time, talent, and treasure.

Laura Bemis 307-277-4902
lkbemis@gmail.com

Jeanette King 831-345-7636
Jeanette2u@att.net

Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator

General Meeting

Our March meeting will honor the girls who aspire to learn more about their opportunities. [Girls Can!](#)

There will not be a separate AAUW-LC meeting in March.

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz



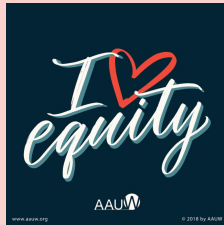
This Spring is packed with events and issues of importance. First is Girls Can!, our highly successful 6th grade girls' career exploration event at DACC East on March 23. Many of us are all signed up to help and are ready to go. If you are not signed up but would like to help, contact Laura Bemis or Jeanette King. We'll see you there!

Second is voting in April about changing the National AAUW bylaws to admit open membership. See the articles below for a brief synopsis of this issue and how voting will occur. A longer explanation will be sent to you by Constant Contact in March.

Third, the AAUW State Board wants to restructure. This issue would change the bylaws and therefore must go before the statewide

membership at a convention. Where, when, and how the convention will take place is an open question at the moment (mid-February). Please see the article below and watch for updates.

That is a lot to take in. Please read this newsletter each month and watch for *Constant Contact* information.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

For the first time in fifteen years, high school graduation requirements in New Mexico will change as a result of a new law signed by our governor during the 2024 legislative session. The new curriculum gives students the flexibility to choose courses that appear more relevant to their lives, such as internships, career technical education, and project-based learning. Students are still required to take four years of math and English and three years of science and social studies, but courses offerings have been expanded. (For a full description of the new requirements, go to <https://nmeducation.org/overhauling-high-school-graduation-requirements/>).

The change in math requirements is relevant for students interested in STEM careers. Currently, high school students are required to take Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. In the new curriculum, students will still take Algebra 1 (as well as Geometry), but they will not be required to take Algebra 2, though Algebra 2 will be offered. Instead they can substitute another math course such as data analysis or financial literacy.

For students (including some who will attend Girls Can!) who want to go to a four-year university and major in a STEM field, Algebra 2 is important, and they will need guidance to make sure they select this course.

According to Rep. G. André Romero, "By providing our students with greater flexibility and control over their course load, we can better engage them, increase their graduation rates, and more effectively prepare them for life after high school."¹ Let's hope that these new high school requirements achieve these goals.

¹"Governor Signs Bill Modernizing Graduation Requirements—Requirements Not Updated Since 2009," Feb. 9, 2024.
<https://www.governor.state.nm.us/2024/02/09/governor-signs-bill-modernizing-graduation-requirements-requirements-not-updated-since-2009/>

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion – Dates to remember and celebrate March 2024

Month long celebrations:

- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month -are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas, and can include: vision impairment, learning or intellectual abilities, cerebral palsy, and autism spectrum disorders to name a few. These conditions begin during the developmental period and may impact day-to-day functioning.
- Women's History Month -highlights contributions that women have made in history and in society. It is celebrated every March to correspond with International Women's Day on March 8. The first Women's History Month was celebrated in 1987.
- Irish American Heritage Month

Daily celebrations:

- March 1 — Employee Appreciation Day
- March 1 — St. David's Day
- March 8 — International Women's Day
- March 8 — Maha Shivaratri
- March 10 — Ramadan begins
- March 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- March 18-24 — Neurodiversity Celebration Week
- March 21 — International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
xxxxxxxxxxxx (United Nations)
- March 21 — World Down Syndrome Day
- March 23-24 — Purim
- March 25 — International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery
- March 29 — National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- March 31 — César Chávez Day
- March 31 — Easter
- March 31 — International Transgender Day of Visibility

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator



National AAUW: 2024 Proposed Bylaws Changes

In April, AAUW members will be asked to vote on changes to the national bylaws. In short, the proposed amendment would eliminate the degree requirement for membership and admit open registration.

The following abbreviated overview and reasons are taken from National's website (aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/).

"This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world."

"We remain committed to higher education as a pathway to eliminate barriers that hold women back and to enhance their leadership opportunities..."

"Professional certification, on-the-job training, career technical experience, and life experience all are alternative paths to obtaining education and the skills needed to become leaders and advocates..."



How Will We Vote?

A third-party voting vendor called Simply Voting will send out by email your personal Elector ID and Password. If you do not have an email address on file with National, you should automatically receive a paper ballot.

Voting will take place online (or by paper ballot as noted above), starting April 3 and ending on May 15, 2024.

Simply Voting will tabulate the results. Because this is a bylaw change, to pass it requires that two-thirds of those voting vote in the affirmative.

Note: once you submit your vote, you cannot change it, nor may you vote twice (of course). If you want or need more discussion on this issue, you might want to wait to vote until after our *General Membership meeting* on April 13.

Restructuring Proposal for AAUW-NM



As has happened to many organizations after Covid, our state organization is re-evaluating its purpose and structure. Some of this is because the same people are doing all the work and the organization wants involvement from all members to stay vital. Also, the travel by the branches at the edge of the state is a burden.

The State Board is proposing reducing the number of elected officers to 4 (possibly 5):

- President (possible Co-President)
- Finance Chair
- Secretary
- Public Policy Chair

All other officers would be appointed positions. These would be (but not limited to):

Webmaster

Newsletter

Convention Chair

Elected officers would have 2-year terms, with no term limits.

Appointed positions would be for 1-year terms, with no term limits, or for the duration of the project.

Each Branch would be asked to nominate a candidate for each elected office to ensure robust participation by all Branches. The Bylaws will define the process.

There will be three (3) state meetings per year instead of 4.

These changes will be discussed and voted on at the upcoming State Convention May in Alamogordo, NM at the Fairfield Inn. You are encouraged to attend and be heard!

Anne Chase & Donna Yargosz, Co-Presidents

"Bits of News"

Friends of the Branigan Library Author talk for March:

Bilingual writer and journalist Zita Arocha will read from her new memoir, **Guajira, the Cuba Girl**, about her hyphenated identity as a Cuban American, her family's exile from the island in the 1950's, her misadventures as a journalist writing about Cuba, and the fractious relationship between her native and adoptive countries.

**Roadrunner Room in the Branigan Library, Wednesday,
March 6, 1:30-3:00 pm**

Interest Groups

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

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Anything Goes Book Group will meet on March 11 at 1:30 pm at the home of Shirley Armstrong to discuss *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond . Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on March 25 at 1:30 pm at the home of Elaine Rude to discuss *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell . Contact: **Judy McGuire**

Bridge Our bridge group will meet at 1:15 pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Contact: **Carol Ann Council**

Great Decisions will meet on at 7:00 pm via ZOOM to discussContact: **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, Communication Chair** 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.

[2023-2024 Officers](#)



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(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, 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 chock 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. 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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[Comments and questions](#)

If you have suggestions or comments about the OMV or wish to advertise here (cost is \$50/year), please contact **Karen Dumont**, the editor.
dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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