

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: 6 VOL: XXVIII

February , 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*

General Meeting February 10, 2024

Dr. Amber Burdge assumed her role in the Aggie administration on December 1, 2022, as the Senior Associate Athletic Director, Senior Woman Administrator, & Deputy Title IX Coordinator. In just one year, she significantly enhanced the Aggie Women's student-athlete experience, fostering impactful campus partnerships that garnered national recognition for collaborative efforts with campus student services.



Through these alliances, Dr. Burdge implemented processes and procedures

addressing critical gaps, safeguarding against challenges that could compromise the exceptional student-athlete experience. Serving as the co-chair for the Hazing Prevention Coalition, she brought renowned speakers to campus.

Previously at Louisiana Tech University, she led the Bulldogs and Lady Techsters to remarkable academic improvements, achieving a 13% increase in the total average GPA. Her commitment to community service is evident in roles such as SAAC advisor, where she co-established the Loyal Blue Boxes program, donating over 70 care packages to local cancer patients. Dr. Burdge was named an Aspire IChange Fellow and contributed to the University of Louisiana System Black Male Advisory Council.

Before LA Tech, her achievements included overseeing 16 sports programs with six national titles as Athletic Director for Neosho Community College. Dr. Burdge, with prior roles at Stephen F. Austin and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, earned her Bachelor of Science in Health in 2000, a Master of Science in Counseling and Student Personnel in 2004, and a Doctorate of Education from Louisiana Tech in 2020.

RoseAnn Hernández, Programs Chair

From our Co-Presidents Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz

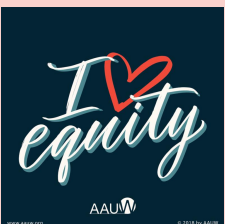


Well, THAT was a cold January! Brr. Let's hope that February will be a little more moderate.

It has been wonderful to see such a nice turnout at the General Meeting. We're always happy to see guests and new members. Our next General Meeting is on February 10, and we hope to see you there.

Coming up is Girls Can! on March 23 at DACC East Mesa. It's gratifying to see so many of us volunteer to help ahead of time and/or on the day. There are a lot of "moving parts" to such a large project, so it's good to see people agree to help by their presence and to support the event monetarily. If you haven't volunteered yet, please consider doing so. Contact Laura Bemis or Jeannette King (contact information is in the yearbook) or talk to them at the February General Meeting.

Donna Yargosz & Anne Chase



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

The New Mexico state legislature began convening on

January 16 for this year's 30-day legislative session. I've highlighted several bills below that might be of interest.

Health Care. The Paid Family Medical Leave Act bill (SB 3 and HB 6) would allow eligible employees to receive a percentage of their wages while on leave to bond with a new baby or to care for a family member. Passing PFMLA has long been a priority of AAUW.

Education. In 2018, the Yazzie-Martinez court ruling found that New Mexico has severely shortchanged students who are English Learners, Native American, Hispanic, and low-income. A proposed bill, Yazzie Martinez Educational Funding (HB 39), would appropriate funds to NM universities, tribal colleges, and the Public Education Department to improve bilingual education.

Gun Legislation. The Firearm Sale Waiting Period (HB 129) bill would require a 14-day waiting period to give more time for background checks. Firearms Near Polling Places (SB 5) would prohibit carrying a firearm into a polling place. The Extreme Risk Protection Order Changes (HB 27) bill would improve the law that temporarily prevents a person in crisis from obtaining firearms.

Book Bans. Prohibit Library Book Banning (HB 123) would prevent public libraries from banning books based on political or religious views.

Communicate with your state senator and representative if you want these (and other) bills passed. You can find your legislators at https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_My_Legislator. To track the progress of all proposed bills, go to <https://www.nmlegis.gov> and click on "legislation" or go to <https://nmbilltracker.com/allbills>.

For information about how to advocate for legislation, go to AAUW's Advocacy Toolkit at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/>.

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



An alternative pathway to success for women, CTE: Career and Technical Education, is a viable option in today's world that is not readily accessed by women.

Consider these facts:

-Men hold $\frac{3}{4}$ of the jobs requiring only a high school diploma that pay at least \$35,000 a year, a higher wage than most entry-level service roles. Only around 27% (12.9 million) workers aged 25-34 have jobs earning at least \$35,000 a year.

-Around 24% of jobs (around 16 million) paying \$55,000 a year or more

require only a high school diploma AND a certificate, certification, license, associate's degree or some college coursework.

-Around 6% of working 16-65 year olds have a professional job certification, 18% have a professional license and 21% have completed a work experience or other training program.

(Resource: AAUW Fast Facts CTE)

Did you know?

- Dona Ana Community College offers close to 30 CTE programs with over 100 certificate and associate degree options.

- The NM Opportunity Scholarship will help fund the cost of a CTE program.

- AAUW-LC Girls Can! 2024 is offering exposure to some CTE through interactive workshops in Culinary, Emergency Medical Technology, Building Construction (drafting), Cosmetology, Ultrasonography, and Business Entrepreneurship (handy"woman") along with noting educational matriculation (assistants/technicians) in the fields of dentistry, law, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and medicine. CTE opportunities are also mentioned at the parents' workshop.

There is a positive domino effect of a good education...

♥"Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope. Hope breeds peace."
- Confucius♥

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



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

Month-long observances:

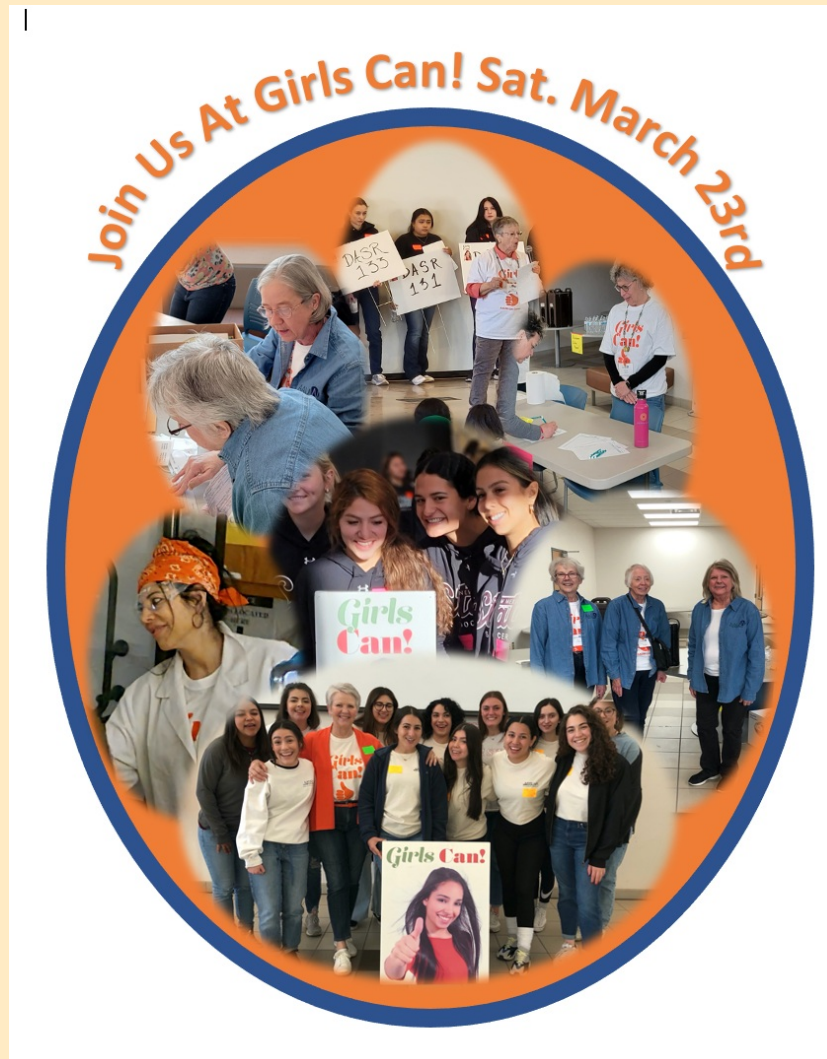
- American Heart Month
- Black History Month

Important February DE&I calendar dates:

- February 1 -- National Freedom Day
- February 4 — Rosa Parks Day
- February 6 — Safer Internet Day
- February 10 -- Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon)
- February 11 – International Day of Women & Girls in Science
- February 12 – International Epilepsy Day

- • February 13 – Mardi Gras
- • February 14 – Ash Wednesday
- • February 14 – Valentine’s Day
- • February 15 – Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
- • February 15 – International Childhood Cancer Day
- • February 19 – Family Day (Canada)
- • February 20 – World Day of Social Justice

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator



Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator

Membership Matters

Please consider bringing a guest to general meetings and Interest Group meetings (with an OK from the host). Our branch is the largest in NM.

Click here for a pdf of the [2023-2024 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, 2025)

Lynne Lord & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH



Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States. In fact, heart disease strikes more women than men and is more deadly than all forms of cancer combined.

Heart disease is a general phrase for a variety of conditions that affect the heart's structure and function. Coronary heart disease is the most common form and occurs when plaque (a combination of fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances found in the blood) builds up in your arteries. Plaque reduces the amount of oxygen-rich blood getting to your heart. This can cause a heart attack, which occurs when the flow of blood that brings oxygen to your heart muscle suddenly becomes blocked. If blood flow is not restored quickly, the heart muscle will begin to die.

Coronary heart disease, like most heart diseases, is a lifelong condition — once you get it, you'll always have it. What's more, the condition of your blood vessels will steadily worsen unless you make changes in your daily habits. (source: American Heart Association)

To learn more about what you can do to keep your heart healthy, visit the American Heart Association's special website for women:

<https://www.goredforwomen.org>

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

AAUW-LC General Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month 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.

RoseAnn Hernández, Program Chair

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet February 12 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan . Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on January 29 at 1:30 pm to discuss *All the Light You Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. 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 to discuss the year's topics: *Mideast Alignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science across Borders, U.S. - China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty, and Pandemic Preparedness* Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places

Contact: (this Coordinator position is open, contact Anne Chase 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.

2023-2025 Officers

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the first Monday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Once the Board approves meeting minutes, they are made available in the following month's OMV.



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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, 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. 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

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

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[New Mexico Website](#)

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