

## ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE: 7, VOL: XXVIII

April , 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

Professor **Jeff Anderson**, an esteemed figure in agricultural expertise, will grace our April general meeting as the featured speaker in celebration of Earth Day. Employed by NMSU, he serves as the Agricultural Agent for Agronomy and Horticulture in Doña Ana County.

With a Master of Science in Horticulture and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Anderson's knowledge spans commercial horticulture, agronomic crops, gardening, and landscaping. For 16 years, he has been a cornerstone of the Doña Ana County Extension Office, offering invaluable guidance to the community.

Prior to this, Anderson spent another 16 years in the floral industry, honing his skills and understanding of plant cultivation. As he approaches retirement in four years, he plans to transition into consultancy work, continuing to share his wealth of expertise.

Anderson's dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices makes him an ideal speaker for Earth Day, inspiring others to join the movement towards a greener, more sustainable future.

**Julia Brown**, AAUW National Chair and member of AAUW-LC will be speaking to us about the upcoming vote regarding the proposed amendment to AAUW National Bylaws. The amendment would eliminate the degree requirement for membership in AAUW.

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, Programs Chair*

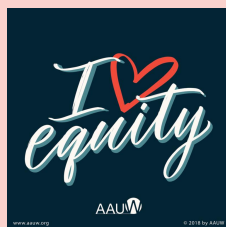
### From our Co-Presidents



By the time you read this, Girls Can! will have come and gone. Members who helped will have put their feet up, relaxed in a comfy chair, and sipped a beverage of choice. Please see any messages from Laura Bemis with final tallies and thanks to all. It has been wonderful to take part in such a well-organized and worthwhile event.

The rest of the Spring will see us vote on the national issue of membership requirements, attend the AAUW State Convention, enjoy more great speakers, give our True Grit Scholarship, and NCCWSL awards, install new officers, and enjoy our annual end-of-year luncheon. Whew! We are busy people!

*Donna Yargosz and Anne Chase, Co-Presidents*



### PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

The 2024 New Mexico legislative session has ended, and many of AAUW's education initiatives did well. Millions of dollars were allocated for technical education, school meals, summer literacy programs, and teacher preparation and retention.(1)

Another major legislative victory was the establishment of a trust fund for the Opportunity Scholarships for college students. New Mexico will set aside nearly \$1 billion to help maintain this program. The trust fund is a smart idea because it will put money into a reserve fund that will draw interest and thus help to offset future declines in oil revenues. The trust fund will be the largest in the country for higher education. Since Opportunity Scholarships were first offered in 2022, college enrollment in New Mexico has increased by ten

percent. (2)

New Mexico has already been providing Lottery Scholarships that pay tuition for high school graduates who immediately enroll full-time in college. The Opportunity Scholarships are more inclusive because they pay tuition for returning or older students who enroll part-time or full-time to seek career-oriented certificates, associate degrees, or bachelor degrees.

These scholarship programs, however, do not pay for graduate school. And college students face hurdles in addition to tuition and fees such as expensive textbooks, living expenses, family issues, transportation, and child care.

AAUW-Las Cruces' True Grit scholarships, the AAUW Las Cruces Scholarship NMSU Endowment for Women, and the NCCWSL scholarships all play an important role in supporting women students and augmenting the college funds students receive from the state.

(1) O'Hara, M. *New Mexico's Education Budget: Session Brought a Mixed Bag of Funding*. Santa Fe New Mexican, Mar 10, 2024.

(2) Hunt, F. *New Mexico Is Trying to Make Tuition-Free College Stick: Here's How*. Chronicle of Higher Education, Mar 12, 2024.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/new-mexico-is-trying-to-make-tuition-free-college-stick-heres-how>

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair



Did you know that AAUW-LC is offering two scholarships to local college women to attend this year's NCCWSL? The conference is being held again at the University of Maryland, College Park. This is an opportunity for college women from all across the US to come together to network, to develop leadership skills, and to be inspired by dynamic women. The diverse workshops and panels offer topics like career development, financial literacy, social justice activism (just to name a few), and, new this year, is a special STEM track of workshops. Thanks to our fundraising efforts, we will provide funding to the scholarship recipients for registration fees and roundtrip airfare. Applications can be found on our website [lascrucenes-nm.aauw.net/scholarships](https://lascrucenes.nm.aauw.net/scholarships). Selection of recipients will be made by April 10, 2024. Encourage any college women that you know to apply!

AAUW-LC also will be giving four \$500 True Grit Awards to female seniors who will be graduating from high school in May of 2024. The True Grit Awards selection task force (Mary Borer, Carol McDonnel, and Jean Roach) has contacted six Las Cruces Public High Schools seeking suitable applicants.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2024. Selection of the True Grit Awards recipients will be done before May 1.

Thank you for your generous support of our scholarship endeavors!

“When you help a woman fulfill her potential, magic happens.” -Shirley Chisholm

*Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair*



For our April DEI Quick Discussion, think about these questions:

- Why do we want to be a diverse organization?
- What does diversity mean: what does it look like, sound like, feel like?
- What may be uncomfortable?
- What will we gain?
- What must the majority give up to become a more diverse organization?
- Why must we give up anything?

## DEI APRIL DATES

### Month-Long Celebrations:

- Arab American Awareness Month
- Autism Acceptance Month
- Diversity Month - recognizes the diversity of the world and is a time of understanding differences whether gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, or other factors. By taking time to appreciate these differences, April creates a time for a deeper understanding of those around you.
- National Deaf History Month
- April features Celebrate Diversity Month

### Week-Long Celebrations:

- Lesbian Visibility Week is celebrated to increase awareness and a better understanding of issues related to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer) community and its different identities. It's associated with Lesbian Visibility Day, which is observed every April 26 and seeks to raise awareness for the community as a whole.

### Daily Celebrations:

- April 2 — World Autism Day
- April 5 — Laylat al-Qadr
- April 6 — National Tartan Day
- April 7 — World Health Day
- April 9 — Ramadan ends
- April 13 — Vaisakhi
- April 22-30 — Passover
- April 24 — Administrative Professionals Day

- April 26 — Lesbian Visibility Day

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

## AAUW-NM State Convention! May 17 & 18

The current issue of the Roadrunner (AAUW-NM newsletter) includes information about the Annual Convention, however in case you did not see it or it somehow got deleted, here it is:

### Where is all the fun going to be?

Fairfield Inn Alamogordo, 300 Panorama Blvd  
(Block of rooms have been reserved for AAUW-NM **575-437-4000**)

Preliminary Outline:

*May 17*

1:00 Meet at **Pistachio Land** for the tour (just for fun)

3:00 – 6:00 PM – LTM Meeting – Fairfield Inn

7:00 PM – Dinner at Lescombes (Across the street from the Fairfield Inn)

Awards and presentations

9:00 PM Games and fun back at the Fairfield Inn

*May 18* – Fairfield Inn

8:30 – AM Registration

9:00 AM – Business Meeting and Speakers

12:00 – Box Lunch (Provided)

1:00 – 4:00 PM – Business Meeting and Activities

There is **no charge** to attend the Convention, other than the cost of the hotel room and the Friday evening meal.

Bring a book for a book swap – by a woman or about a woman, fiction or nonfiction – be ready to sell us on your book in the segment – “What’s her story.”

It is a good chance to see old friends and meet new ones. Plus, the **Book Swap!!** Ann and Donna will be there and Donna already has a nice stack of books ready to go. We encourage you to attend at least the Saturday session. Many meetings have been held regarding the reorganization of AAUW-NM. This is your opportunity to vote on the proposed changes. Also, it is rare for a state meeting to be so close to home....only 60 miles!

Click this link to register:

[Convention Registration](#)

[Girls Can!](#)

March 23, 2024 at Dona Ana Community College East Mesa

Campus is in the books.

We had 281 girls attend workshops. Workshop Presenters did an outstanding job of engaging the girls and hopefully inspiring them to start thinking about their futures.

Watch for a complete report in our May Organ Mountain Views.

For now – enjoy these glimpses into a wonderful day.

*Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator*



## VOTING ON AAUW NATIONAL ISSUE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS



You may already have received a message from National AAUW containing information about how you can vote online on the proposal to drop the academic requirement for membership. It is important to vote, because the results will be tallied (by an independent company) based on the number of members voting, not the number of members out there. Attend the [April General Meeting](#) for more information.

## 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, 2024)

*Lynne Lord & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs*



## AAUW-LC End-of-the-Year Luncheon

Our end-of-the-year luncheon is scheduled for 11:00 am – 12:45 pm on June 8th at Red Hawk Golf Club located at 7502 Red Hawk Golf Rd.

The deadline for your RSVP and non-refundable \$20 is

May 29th. We will have a sign-up sheet at the April meeting, or you can mail your check made out to AAUW-LC to P.O. Box 1081 LC, NM 88004. (Please remember to write "luncheon" on the memo line.)

The buffet menu includes a Garden Salad, Chicken & Pasta (baked chicken breast topped with fresh bruschetta, shaved parmesan cheese & a balsamic reduction and green chile (sic) Alfredo) Dessert(s) are TBD. Drinks are coffee, tea, and water. Adult beverages may be purchased at the bar.

**PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY START TIME** There is another event scheduled at the restaurant. We have to be out of there by 1:00 pm.

## AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTIFICATION!

Currently, annual dues are \$110 broken down as follows:

National \$ 72 (ALL national dues are tax deductible)

State \$ 18

LC Branch \$ 20

Total: \$110

NOTE! Current and new members who wish their names and contact information to be included in the [Las Cruces Branch Yearbook](#) must have their dues current no later than [June 30](#).

We *strongly* encourage members to pay online.

You may renew in either of the following two ways:

1) [Send a check](#) - payable to AAUW-Las Cruces Branch, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1081 or give your check directly to the Finance Chair (Christine Long).

2) [Pay online](#) - an e-mail reminder with a link to complete your renewal online will be sent out by AAUW National **in the month prior to** your expiration date. Please, be sure to look out for it. Thank you!

**NOTE: For renewing members, as long as you renew within your grace period, which is three months after your expiration date, you will maintain your current renewal date.**

To confirm their renewal date, members can log into their personal Community Hub account or send an email to the Branch Membership Co-Chairs or the Finance Officer requesting confirmation of their expiration date.

*Christine Long*, Finance Chair

## Interest Groups

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



**Anything Goes Book Group** will meet on April 8 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Chancellor* by Kati Marton. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

**Anything Goes Fiction Book Group** will meet on April 22 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr. Contact: **Judy McGuire**

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

**Great Decisions** Discussion Group will meet via Zoom on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm. Our first discussion on Mideast Realignment raised many questions about today's unsettled Middle East, China's growing role in the region, and the apparent U.S. goal of reducing its presence there. The second discussion focused on the quest to transition to renewable sources of energy, the progress being made, and the geopolitical issues that complicate the clean-energy transition.

Sound interesting? Can you afford not to care? Contact **Susan Hychka** to join our group for the six remaining discussions.

### **Going Places**

Contact: (This coordinator position is open, contact Anne or Donna 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](mailto: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)







Click here for your copy of the 2022-2025 elected and appointed leadership team.

**[2023-2025 AAUW-LC Leadership Team](#)**

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Once the Board approves meeting minutes, they are made available.



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**(click on the underlined link)**

**[Other AAUW Membership Benefits](#)**

Access to member benefits at [AAUW.org](http://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](http://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 **Rashni Ana**. 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](mailto:dumontkm@gmail.com)

Thank you for reading



Las Cruces (NM) Branch

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