

ORGAN MOUNTAIN VIEWS

ISSUE 9 : VOL: XXVIII

June, 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 Meetings

It's hard to believe that our 2023-24 year is coming to an end. We have one more board meeting and our end-of-the-year luncheon before our year ends.

This year we were enlightened by speakers from NMSU's CAMP and American Indian Programs and the Athletic Department, the MLK Youth Leadership Program, Doña Ana County Extension, Trauma Informed Care and the NM Ombudsman Program.

Our presenters were generous with their time and knowledge. In addition to these programs, we had two very successful celebrations – our Centennial Celebration and our Holiday Luncheon.

I would like to thank the members who attended and participated in person or via Zoom; several expressed their appreciation for the programs. It was my pleasure to bring these community programs to the membership.

I am looking forward to working with Tricia Brainard, newly elected Co-VP Programs.

Have an enjoyable, healthy summer. See you in September.

RoseAnn Hernández, Programs Chair

Driving Directions to June 8 Luncheon

(These directions are accurate as of late May, but you never know what will go on with Sonoma Ranch Blvd.)

However you normally would do so, get yourself to Sonoma Ranch Boulevard heading north. After you go under the I-70 overpass, keep going north. Go halfway around the traffic circle and continue north. Very shortly there will be a sign saying "Golf Club Detour." Turn left onto Santa Minerva as the sign directs. After a quick 6 or 7 streets turn right onto Red Hawk Golf Rd. Stay on that road until reaching the golf club.

Travel time from the south end of town = about 30 minutes. Please leave plenty of time, and remember that the luncheon starts at **11:00 am**.

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members and Welcome to New Ones



We want to say a reluctant "adios" to our outgoing Board members who have served so well above and beyond the call of duty: Co-President Anne Chase, Finance Officer Christine Long, Membership Co-Vice President Lynne Lord, and Past President Marsha Hokkanen. All served well beyond their required time and are leaving us in excellent shape!

But wait! They're not really going away. Anne will now serve as Past President, even as she assumes her office as Co-President of AAUW-NM. Christine has

vowed to be on tap in person or online from England for any questions or suggestions regarding finances. Lynne kindly agreed to help on Membership as needed. Marsha will take a well-deserved break, but she is always around to help out.

Welcome indeed to our new Board members: Co-President Lynette Schurdevin, Finance Officer Lani Davis, Program Co-Vice President Tricia Brainard, Membership Co-Vice President Barbara McGuffey, and as mentioned, Past President Anne Chase.

We also welcome appointed (non-voting) Board members Pat Johnson as Girls Can! Coordinator and Sonia Walterbos as Website and Facebook Coordinator.

Donna Yargosz, Co-President

2024 AAUW-NM State Convention Report

The Las Cruces branch was well represented at this year's State Convention which was held in Alamogordo on May 17th and 18th. Many thanks to Las Cruces branch member Kathy Davis for helping to organize this Convention.

The updated Bylaws were approved by those attending. They will be uploaded to the New Mexico State government, which is required by law.

We were told that there are 362 current members in NM. Las Cruces has 102 of those members!

The change to the National Bylaws modifying the educational requirements for membership failed to pass. Phyllis Ludi and Julia Brown did let us know that individual branches have a lot of flexibility to determine how education "or equivalent" can be interpreted. Alternatives to college degrees might be Military educations, internships which allow one to take a professional exam or Certificate Programs OK'ed by the branch.

It was noted that when you register on the National website, under the Degree box in membership is a Dropdown Box where you can say "equivalent".

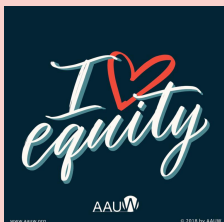
Anne Chase was elected State Co-President to Helena White for the 2024-2026 term. Kathy Davis will continue as State Secretary.

Submitted by:
Anne Chase and Donna Yargosz

NATIONAL AAUW MEMBERSHIP QUESTION

National AAUW website states:

- The open membership initiative did not pass. Changes to AAUW's bylaws require 2/3 majority (66.6%) to pass. AAUW members voted 65.1% to approve the measure, just shy of passing.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

One of AAUW's longstanding policy priorities is the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) act. This law would allow workers to take time off with pay and benefits in order to care for aging family members, bond with newborn children, or cope with medical crises. A PFML bill that was introduced in the New Mexico 2024 legislature did not pass, but its sponsors intend to introduce another PFML bill in the 2025 session.

In an opinion piece in the Albuquerque Journal, the four female state senators who introduced the 2024 bill wrote that PFML is "an affirmation of our commitment to building stronger, healthier communities by providing support during times of need." They noted that PFML laws in other states have lessened health inequities, limited the racial wealth gap, and reduced the economic penalties suffered by caregivers, who are usually women. (1)

The proposed 2024 PFLMA bill would have been funded by contributions from businesses and workers. This funding source caused opposition to the bill, with eleven House Democrats joining Republicans in voting against it. (2)

Despite this opposition, PFML would strengthen our economy by enabling caregivers, most of whom are women, to continue advancing in the workforce despite family or medical crises. As the national AAUW website notes, many women incur a "motherhood penalty" that limits their workforce advancement. (3) A PFML law would help to lessen this penalty while strengthening our economy and increasing social equity.

(1) Stewart, M., et al. It's Time NM Joins the Movement for Paid Family and Medical Leave. *Albuquerque Journal*, 7 Jan. 2024.

<https://www.abqjournal.com/opinion/opinion-it-s-time-new-mexico-joins-the-movement-for-paid-family-and-medical-leave/>

(2) Fisher, A. House Narrowly Rejects Paid Family and Medical Leave. Source NM, 14 Feb. 2024. <https://sourcennm.com/2024/02/14/house-narrowly-rejects-paid-family-and-medical-leave-program/>

(3) AAUW. The Motherhood Penalty. n. d. <https://www.aauw.org/issues/equity/motherhood/>

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

2024 True Grit Award Recipients

AAUW-LC is granting five \$500 2024 True Grit Awards! True Grit Awards are given to high school seniors who have “demonstrated the tenacity and determination to overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, earn a high school diploma, and pursue a post secondary education”. Our five awardees were selected by a task force from the twelve applications which were submitted from four of our public high schools. They are featured below.



***Maria Fernanda Balderas** will be graduating from Organ Mountain High School. She plans to attend DACC, majoring in Nursing with the ultimate goal of becoming a Maternal-Child Registered Nurse.

***Natalie Gomez** will be graduating from Rio Grande Preparatory Institute. She probably will attend UTEP, majoring in Political Science and History with the ultimate goal of becoming an immigration lawyer.

***Valentina Paige** will be graduating from Mayfield High School. She plans to attend NMSU, majoring in Psychology with the ultimate goal of working with people with mental health issues.

***Jolene Peabody** will be graduating from Organ Mountain High School. She plans to attend NMSU, majoring in Biology with the ultimate goal of becoming a conservationist and marine biologist.

***Betsabeth Urena** will be graduating from Las Cruces High School. She plans to attend NMSU, majoring in Information Technology Engineering with the ultimate goal of designing improved medical emergency devices and software.

“Thank you” to our True Grit Award selection task force (Mary Borer, Carol McDonell, Jean Roach) for their time and commitment to enhancing our selection process!

“Thank you” to this year’s True Grit Advocates, Jan Hampton and Michele Rasch! Along with myself, they are representatives of our branch who make a personal connection with each of the True Grit Awardees, supporting them as they make their way towards college and ensuring that they submit verification of active college enrollment so they can receive their money.

And “thank you” to all members for supporting our award and scholarship programs!

?”Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer...”?

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair

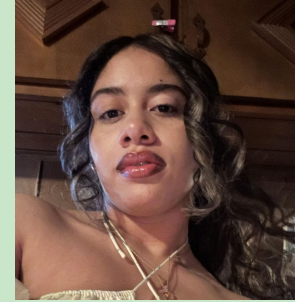
Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Maria Fernanda Balderas



Natalie Gomez



Valentina Paige



Jolene Peabody



Betsabeth Urena

Yearbook 2024-25

Please review your information in the 2023-24 Yearbook. If there are **ANY** corrections, please get them to me by July 15th. I would like to have the Yearbook ready for distribution at our September 14th general meeting.

RoseAnn Hernández, roseann797@gmail.com

Doorkeeper Volunteers Needed

We are able to use the DACC facilities at no charge. It would be a good thing to relieve Mary Ulrich of door duties, as she generously arranged for us to meet there. The doors to the building need to be locked at all times on Saturdays for security purposes. But of course our members need to enter at various times up until, say, 9:50. Therefore, we are asking for volunteers to open the doors to members and guests in 10 to 15 minute shifts. You would "work" your shift, then join us again in the meeting room. If a lot of members volunteer once or twice in the course of the year, we can cover this.

We need volunteers for the General Meetings (second Saturdays) in September, October, November, January, February, April, and May. We could use 4 or 5 volunteers per month. If you can help, please let Donna know in which month you can be a doorkeeper. A list will be kept, and reminders will be sent. You can reach her by email or text (see your Yearbook).

If you arrive late, most likely the doors will be locked, and you won't get in. If you know you will be running late, you could text someone in the room to come open the doors for you.

A Note to Name Tag Lanyard Owners

To the dismay of the beading group, a number of members have had their name tag lanyards break. We will repair or replace for free any lanyard that comes apart. The group works to put extra "crimps" (those small silver tubes that pinch the wires together) in place. But after all, the lanyards are just jewelry-making wire and resin beads, not fine metallic jewelry. We would suggest not yanking hard on the lanyard when putting it on or removing it. Be gentle. However, if it breaks anyway, let us know, and we'll fix the problem.

Lynne Lord, RoseAnn Hernández, Ann Kaiser, Donna Yargosz

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.

Lani Davis, Finance Chair

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



June DEI Dates

Month Long Celebrations

- Caribbean American Heritage Month - First observed in the United Kingdom, Windrush Day, June 22, honors African-Caribbean immigrants who came to the country during a labor shortage after World War II. The first immigrants suffered intolerance from the largely white population where blacks were banned from many pubs, clubs, and even churches.
- **Pride Month** - recognizes LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer) people and the contributions they have made to the world. It was selected as the month to commemorate the Stonewall Riots. As a result of police raiding the Stonewall and other Greenwich Village lesbian and gay bars and becoming violent, members of the gay community in NYC protested.

Daily Celebrations

- June 2 – Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 - While this act gave Native Americans American citizenship, they didn't earn the right to vote until 1957.
- June 12 — Loving Day – honors the anniversary of Loving V Virginia legalizing interracial marriage and struck down anti-miscegenation laws in 16 states at the time.
- June 14-19 — Hajj
- June 16 — Father's Day
- June 17 — Eid al-Adha
- June 18 — International Day for Countering Hate Speech
- June 19 — Juneteenth
- June 22 — Windrush Day
- June 28 — Pride Day

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

AAUW-LC PROGRAM CALENDAR

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.

RoseAnn Hernández + Tricia Brainard, Program Chairs

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on June 10 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Maus 1. My Father Bleeds History* by Art Spiegelman. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on June 24 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See. 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 discuss 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)



Click here for your copy of the 2024-2026 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2024-2026 Officers](#)

Your elected and appointed **Board of Directors** meets monthly on the 1st Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.



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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 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 **Donna Yargosz**, President, and/or **Kathy Cooke**, Email Coordinator.

[AAUW-LC Website](#) is maintained by **Sonia Walterbos**. Contact her with

comments, additions, or questions.. (click on the link above: "AAUW-LC Website")

A [Facebook](#) Page for AAUW LC is maintained by **Sonia Walterbos**. 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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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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