



ISSUE : 1, VOL: XXIX

January, 2025

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."

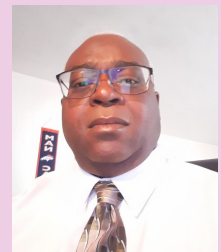
Also, remember that words [underlined in bright blue](#) are links to click on for additional information.

Take a look at the updated [AAUW LC Website](#) with a new look, thanks to AAUW. A couple of the web pages are yet to be edited...stay tuned! We hope you enjoy our new colorful borderless look for the 2025 OMV

Karen Dumont, OMV Editor
Judy McGuire, Photo Editor

General Meeting

Happy New Year! ¡Feliz Año Nuevo! We look forward to seeing you in 2025.



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.

Christopher Woods will be our speaker on **January 11**. He serves as the ARAO (Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression) Portal Coordinator at the New Mexico Public Education Department. Mr. Woods earned a BA in Psychology and an MS in Family and Consumer Sciences from New Mexico State University.

Before joining the Public Education Department, he worked at the NM Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. He also has experience as a psychologist at the Southern

New Mexico Correctional Facility, a part of the NM Department of Corrections.

During his talk, he will discuss government employment, his current role, the functions of the department and its current initiatives.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Co-VPs

From our Co-Presidents Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin



Welcome to a new year! We can look forward to more inspiring speakers, more fundraising for good causes, and more activities with good friends. Don't forget more volunteering so that these good causes are successful. Many hands are needed. You don't have to do everything—just please do something. Girls Can! is coming up fast on March 1. We need just a few more volunteers. If you can help at all, please volunteer for one or more jobs. (And see this OMV for a quick, fun way to help out pre-event.)

Our branch is fortunate to have an amazingly good Board of Directors. Please see the article on available Board positions and consider becoming a Board member. We especially need a second Co-President and Secretary. Neither job is beyond your capabilities, and there is a lot of help on hand.

Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin, Co-Presidents

Board Positions Need to be Filled

Every year, we look to fill Board positions that are up for election or re-election. These first positions are all to be voted upon by the membership. They are staggered on a two-year rotation. All are voting positions. The current holders of those positions may elect to serve another term or not. (See "All Above Board", below for a link to a list of current elected and appointed Board members)

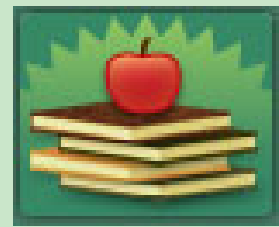
These first positions are: Co-President, Secretary, Membership VP, and Programs VP. The term for each position is 2 years. This Board is excellent and would help any new "recruit" along the way.

The other positions are appointed by the Co-Presidents. Each is in effect a one-year terms, although many people choose to keep on term after term. Some are voting positions; some are not.

These positions include: Fundraising Coordinator, Yearbook Editor, Girls Can! Coordinator, Parliamentarian, Public Policy Chair, Diversity Coordinator, E-mail Coordinator, Academic Chair, Communications Chair, Media Relations, Historian, Bylaws/Policy Coordinator, and Special Programs Chair. Quite a few of the current holders of these positions will renew, but some have asked to be replaced.

We will be recruiting people as 2025 moves along. Please consider supporting this wonderful organization by joining the Board. (Please reach out to Donna or Lynette if interested in a Board position)

ACADEMIC OUTREACH



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we ring in the new year and look at past accomplishments, we should feel proud to know that AAUW-LC continues to support women and girls' education and empowerment in our community!

Since the year 2000, **54 AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarships** have been awarded to women at NMSU, totaling **\$39,944!!** In 2024 alone, **6** scholarships were awarded totaling **\$4,026 to six young women at NMSU-LC and DACC.**

Since the year 2014, we have given **27 True Grit Awards totaling \$13,200** to senior girls in Las Cruces who have overcome obstacles to be able to graduate from high school and pursue a postsecondary education. In 2024 alone, **5 True Grit Awards** were granted totaling **\$2,500!**

AAUW-LC NCCWSL Scholarships were funded in 2022, 2023, and 2024 for 6 NMSU students to attend the conference totaling **\$6,170.** In 2024 alone, 3 students attended, and their scholarships covered conference fees, housing, and airfare totaling **\$3,326!**

2024 grand total for AAUW-LC scholarships/awards granted: \$9,852!!

Grand total for scholarships/awards granted since their inception: \$59,314!!

♥ **The impact that we make in the lives of young women is immeasurable. If you have had the opportunity to meet and talk with any of our recipients, you know that the support we give them is most important because it shows that we believe in them and their potential.**

THANK YOU for your generosity! Let's plan to make an impact again in 2025!

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

JANUARY:

National Slavery & Human Trafficking Prevention Month
and
Poverty in America Awareness Month

Jan 1: New Year's Day

Jan 4: World Braille Day

Jan 13: Korean American Day

Jan 14: Buddhist Mahayana New Year

Jan 14: Makar Sankranti

Jan 16: National Day of Racial Healing

Jan 20: [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

Jan 27: [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

Jan 29: [Lunar New Year](#)

Click the [blue](#) links for further information on any of these dates.

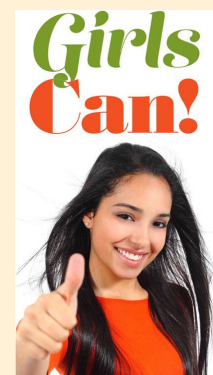
Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

[Girls Can!](#)

The Girls Can! **presenters** are all committed!
The **brochures** have been designed and are being printed!
The **backpacks** and **T-shirts** have been delivered!

Now, what we **need** are a few more volunteers to help. If you are available and willing to help on March 1 anytime from 7:30 a.m. until noon at the Dona Ana Community College East Mesa campus, send your name and phone number to Mona Trempe at mona.trempe@gmail.com.

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator



[Have Fun and Help Make Beaded Items for Girls Can!](#)

This year's Girls Can! is early – **March 1**. Girls Can! Coordinator, **Pat Johnson** is hoping for a record turnout of 6th grade girls. That means many more backpacks and therefore many more backpack pulls, memory wire bracelets, and DIY bead necklaces.

RoseAnn Hernández has her group working hard on memory wire bracelets; Lynne Lord and Donna Yargosz are plugging away to finish backpack pulls and DIY bead necklaces, but they could use some help. The groups that worked on these things last year has such a good time and accomplished so much, that this year they're back at it and hope you can help.

A group to make backpack pulls will meet on Saturday, January 25, at 9:30 am at Donna Yargosz' house. Another group to put together the baggies of DIY necklaces will meet on Saturday, February 15, also at 9:30 at Donna's house. All materials will be supplied.

If you would like to join in the fun, let Donna know (phone and email are in the Yearbook). Confirmation and directions to the house will be sent when the groups are established. We hope for lots of helpers.

Submitted by *Donna Yargosz*

[Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction – Success!](#)

Major congratulations and thanks to RoseAnn Hernández for her hard work in planning and preparing the Holiday Luncheon. We liked being at Sunset Grill in the past but outgrew the space. So RoseAnn thought we should try using the DACC

Workforce Center (where we hold our Board meetings and General Meetings). There was certainly ample space for our attendees, the food, the beverages and desserts, and for the Silent Auction.

Many thanks to Kay Brilliant, who picked up, stored and priced the auction items. There is always a lot of interest in these items and some very “brisk” bidding, shall we say. We raised just over \$2,800, which will go to whichever of our projects need it the most. Of course, thank you to those who donated items for the cause. It was a wonderful selection.

Also, thanks to the set-up crew: RoseAnn, Kay Brilliant, Kay Williams, Londa Seiffert, and Donna Yargosz. Many people stayed to help clean up, so a big thank you to them. Comments from the attendees were very positive. No doubt we will use these facilities again.



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 with just over 100 members!

Guests will be offered the opportunity to join at any official AAUW general meeting or event to receive a one-time 50% discount on NATIONAL Dues through the AAUW National "Shape the Future" (STF) campaign. Since this **STF discounted \$74 total annual dues payment** must be received at the event/meeting, please suggest that your guests bring a CHECK or CASH with high hopes they will want to join!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Allison (Allie) Oakley (guest of Jean Roach), who **JOINED** at the December AAUW LC Holiday Luncheon with the STF discount. Also, **Mary Barker** has transferred her AAUW membership from the Green Bay, WI, branch to **JOIN** our branch following her recent move to Las Cruces.

Renewal Reminder! Annual Dues are \$110: National (\$72)+State (\$18)+ Las Cruces Branch (\$20). If you renew online, you must select New Mexico for State and Las Cruces for Branch to be a member of our Branch. If you prefer, you can renew by check for \$110 made payable to AAUW-LC in person at our meetings or by mail to: P.O. Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004

If there are any questions, feel free to contact:
Barbara McGuffey & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs

Click here for a pdf of the [2024-2025 Membership Brochure](#) that you can give to prospective members.

Barbara McGuffey & Michele Rasch , Membership Co-VPs

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on January 13 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt . Contact **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on January 20 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. 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 via ZOOM. Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places Contact: **Michele Rasch**

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**

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** so she can show our support with a personalized card.



All Above Board

You can click here for your copy of the 2024-2026 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2024-2026 Board of Directors](#)

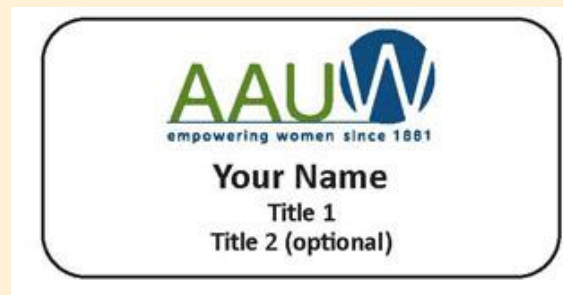
Communications

In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website and Facebook page. All Branch emails will be sent by **Donna Yargosz** or **Lynette Schurdevin**, Co-Presidents, 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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(click on the underlined link)

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Comments and questions

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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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