



Founded in 1923, AAUW's Mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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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

Dr. Mary Ulrich is the Executive Director of the Division of Workforce and Community Engagement of Doña Ana Community College. She works to promote student success in workforce and career training programs to realize positive outcomes in the communities served by DACC. Some of the current projects are the DACC Truck Driving Academy, the Career Pathway Certification programs which provide skills-based training in logistics, warehousing, manufacturing and transportation based in the Sunland Park Campus location, and the Digital Skills Academy that assists community members to develop basic computer skills.

Dr. Tricia Brainard is the Director of Adult Education at Doña Ana Community College, where she leads one of the largest ESL programs in New Mexico, serving over 800 English language learners and 400 high school equivalency students annually. She has served at DACC for nearly three years, working to expand access, improve outcomes, and remove barriers for adult learners. Recent initiatives include a redesigned onboarding process to identify GED readiness—doubling HSE enrollment and revealing that nearly 300 students begin the program ready to test. Her team also provides academic support in reading, writing, and numeracy for students in the DACC Truck Driving Academy, helping bridge the gap between technical training and foundational skills.

The Division of Workforce and Community Education at DACC offers a wide range of programs designed to support adult learners, job seekers, and community members pursuing new skills and career pathways. During this presentation, we will provide an overview of our services—including Adult Education, customized training, career and workforce readiness preparation, and community enrichment programs—and highlight ways AAUW members can support our mission through referrals, advocacy, and informal mentoring.

The May General Meeting will be held Saturday May 10 at 10:00 am at the Dona Ana Community College Workforce Center at 2345 Nevada Avenue, Las Cruces. The meeting will be preceded by a "social time" starting at 9:30.

Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will vote for officers and the budget.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Chairs

CORRECTED SLATE OF OFFICER FOR MAY, 2025 MEETING

Here is the corrected slate of officers for you to vote on at the May General Meeting.

Co-President – unfilled at this time.

Secretary – Rosella Vialpando (agreed to serve another term)

Program VP – RoseAnn Hernández (agreed to serve another term)

Membership VP – Michele Rasch (agreed to serve another term)

Membership VP – Jennifer Burk (finishing for Barb McGuffey)

Appointed positions are appointed by the Board and are not voted on by the membership. Additional nominations for the above positions can be taken from the floor.

Here is a link to the proposed budget : [FINAL 2025 AAUW-LC BUDGET](#)

Donna Yargosz, Co-President

FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD

Our end of the year luncheon is scheduled for **June 14th, 11:30 am** at the DACC Workforce Center. The cost is \$22. You can sign up at our May meeting or send a check to AAUW-LC PO Box 1081, 88004. Please write "luncheon" in the memo line. Looking forward to seeing you!

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Chairs

From our Co-Presidents **Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin**



Winds are down, allergies are up. It's always something. As we move into May, please make a note to attend the May 10 General Meeting. We need a quorum to transact the business of approving the 2025-2026 budget and the slate of Board members. (Members will receive this information

in advance.)

We will be taking reservations and payment for our June luncheon. Also, we will be asking you to take a one-question survey (see below under the charcuteries articles). And of course we will have excellent speakers. It was very good to see so many members at April's General Meeting; we hope to see at least as many on May 10. This will be the last General Meeting for the 2024-2025 year, so let's go out with a bang!

Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin, Co-Presidents

Charcuterie Boards for Sale? You Tell Us!

We need your help. We will be offering sets of charcuterie utensils, as outlined below, for sale in the Fall. We are also considering offering fused glass charcuterie boards. They will be available in several sizes and designs. However, the glass is expensive and hard to get. Since glass is expensive, it would be impractical for our artist friend, Kay Gross, to buy the glass for the trays without knowing approximately how many she will be able to sell. So, for the first time ever, we are conducting a survey to see how many members would be interested in purchasing a board.

At the May 10 General Meeting, we will have samples to look at. The large (about 14") will cost \$45. There is a medium square plate for \$35. And a smaller oblong one is \$25. In stores they probably would sell for 3 times that much. There is no obligation to buy, but we would like serious survey replies only.

This is a trial run. If members are not interested in purchasing any, that's fine. We just need to know pretty well how many would sell. The survey forms will be on the tables at the meeting. If you want to talk about sizes and colors, you can chat with Donna Yargosz at the back sales table before or after the meeting.

What Is Charcuterie?

Charcuterie (shar-KOO-ter-ee) is originally a French word for cured meats. Today it describes a board or large plate offering cured meats, cheeses, fruits, nuts, spreads, olives, etc. The best boards (so they say) go by the 3-3-3 rule: 3 types of meat (such as salami, prosciutto, ham, sausage), 3 cheeses of various kinds (ex.: from cows, goats, and/or sheep), and 3 accompaniments (ex: olives, artichoke hearts, grapes, nuts). Charcuterie is the perfect finger food buffet and usually offers a wide assortment.

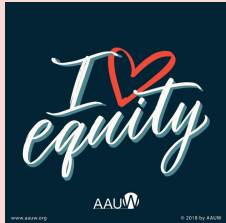
To handle the items on the charcuterie board, often special cheese knives and forks are used. In the Fall, sets of beaded charcuterie utensils will be offered for sale.

New Item at the Sales Table on May 10

We usually sell name tag lanyards (\$10) at meetings, and last month we added beaded cheese (or paté or peanut butter or jam) spreaders (\$15) and took orders

for beaded salad fork and spoon sets (\$25). For the May 10 meeting we also will offer 4-strand, stretchy, semi-precious gemstone bracelets (\$35). The stones we used are garnets, malachite, amethyst, tigereye, quartz, lapis, jasper, howlite (faux turquoise), amazonite, and a little bit of aquamarine. Each bracelet is stacked by using the little jewelry carabiner, so you could also wear one strand, or two, or three as you prefer. We have only 20 on hand, minus whatever we sell at the State Convention. And you could always order one for yourself or as a gift.

Please come by and see Lynne Lord and/or Donna Yargosz at the sales table. We can take cash, check, or credit card. **As always, proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.**



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

The 2025 New Mexico legislative session is over, and over 100 new laws have been signed by our Governor. Unfortunately, one of AAUW's longtime initiatives, the Paid Family and Medical Leave Act, didn't make it to the finish line. The bill passed in the House but died in the Senate over a disagreement about funding. According to Meredith Machen, Public Policy Director of AAUW-NM, this bill will be introduced again in next year's legislature.

However, many bills supported by AAUW-NM did become law. Last month I wrote about three successful public safety bills. Here are a few additional new laws: New Mexico public school teachers' base salaries will be increasing. Beginning teachers will start at \$55,000, midlevel teachers will earn at least \$65,000 and experienced teachers (9+years) will make at least \$75,000.

The state budget will allocate more funding to support middle and high school students and English Language Learners.

The Anti-Distraction Policy in Schools law requires school districts to implement policies for cell phones in school, such as keeping students from using cell phones during class time.

The Non-Major Party Voters in Primary Elections law will let voters unaffiliated with a major political party participate in primary elections by requesting a major party's ballot.

A Medicaid trust fund will be created that the state can use if the federal government significantly cuts Medicare contributions.

To learn more about the fate of other AAUW-NM supported bills, go to <https://nmlegiswatch.org/trackers/aauw> . Read about all of the new 116 laws signed by the Governor at <https://www.governor.state.nm.us/about-the-governor/signed-legislation/>.

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair



DEI DATES FOR MAY

Entire Month of May:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

Haitian Heritage Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

National Military Appreciation Month

Older Americans Month

May 5: **Cinco de Mayo**

May 5: **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day**

May 15: **Global Accessibility Awareness Day**

May 17: **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**

May 20: **Armed Forces Day**

May 21: **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue & Development**

May 22: **Declaration of the Bab (Bahá'í)**

May 26: **Memorial Day**

Tricia Brainard, Diversity 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 [2025-2026 Membership Brochure](#) that you can print or email and give to prospective members.

Michele Rasch , Membership

AAUW-LC PROGRAM

Meetings are held on the second Saturday at the DACC Workforce Center, 2345 Nevada Ave. The program begins at **10:00 am** and is 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 May 12 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Astrid and*

Veronika by Linda Olsson. Contact **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet May 19 at 1:30 pm to discuss *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult. 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 topics for 2025 including 1) American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads, 2) US Changing Leadership of the World Economy, 3) US-China Relations, 4) China, the West, and the Global South, 5) International Cooperation on Climate Change, 6) The Future of NATO and European Security, 7) AI and American National Security, and 8) American Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead. 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**

Playing and Singing for Fun meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at 10 am. The group has chosen ukuleles as our main instrument but other instruments are welcome.

Contact: **Reba McGear**.

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

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

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 **Judy McGuire**, 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")

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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Thank you for reading



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