



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

Please join us for our end-of-the-year luncheon themed, "Age of Empowerment" June 14th 11:00am – 1:15pm at the Workforce Center Room 123. Social Time 11 - 11:15 and the Fun and Games begin promptly at 11:15! The cost is \$22.

You can mail your check to **AAUW-LC PO Box 1081 88004**. Please write "luncheon" on the memo line.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Chairs

From our Co-Presidents
Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin

This is the last Co-Presidents' Message put together by Donna. I will gratefully, and I hope gracefully, step aside for Lynette to take over. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as Co-President first with Anne Chase and this past year with Lynette.



I have worked with quite a few Boards in several organizations over the years, and I would say that this Board is the best. We often work by consensus if a vote is not required; members give their opinions freely and for the greater good. Everyone pitches in to help where they can. I am just extremely grateful for all their help in steering this worthy organization.

A final note: please make sure you have signed up and paid for the end-of-year luncheon on June 14. Please do this before the end of May.

Co-Presidents Donna Yargosz and Lynette Schurdevin

[Order Your Charcuterie Board and Prep for the Fall](#)

You had a chance to see the glass charcuterie boards at the May General Meeting. Guess which one got the most attention? That's right: the black and white with bright red poppies.

Kay Gross, our artist friend, tries hard to satisfy her customers. But remember that this particular glass is a little hard to get and tricky to work with. So, the sooner you go see what she's got and what she can do for you, the better.

You can contact her at krokay144@yahoo.com or by phone/text at 303-915-7735. To visit her studio (call first!) at 5306 Redman Road, take Las Alturas south from University to Tellbrook. Left on Tellbrook. Right on Remington. Right on Redman (the street after Echo Canyon). Her house and studio are on the left, several houses down.

At the September, October, and November General Meetings, we will be offering a variety of items for sale. We will have glass nightlights and small, handy bowls, both by Kay Gross. There will be beaded cheese (or whatever) spreaders and salad server forks and spoons. We will also have beaded charcuterie utensil sets. Stretchy bracelets with semi-precious gemstones will be available. And the beaded pumpkin and harvest décor items will be back. There will be a limited quantity of those, so be prepared to pounce on them fast. (Not kidding about the "pounce" part!)

Items will be for sale during social time and at the end of the meeting. We will accept cash, check, and credit card. As usual, proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund. We are aiming to have a price list for the September OMV.

What a nice way to get set for Fall, and to stock up for December holiday items. We will see you at the back of the meeting room then!

It is the pleasure of the True Grit Award Selection Task Force to announce five 2025 True Grit Award recipients! These deserving young women have been selected for demonstrating “the determination and tenacity to overcome obstacles to achieve academic success, earn a high school diploma, and pursue a post secondary education!” Each one will receive a \$600 award as soon as her proof of active enrollment at her chosen college is submitted.



The True Grit Award recipients are:

- * *Isabella Fierro*, Las Cruces High School, who plans to attend NMSU with an undeclared major.
- * *Adiana Nevares*, Organ Mountain High School, who plans to attend UNM and major in Biochemistry and Pre-med.
- * *Stephanie Rodriguez*, Arrowhead Park Early College High School, who plans to attend NMSU and major in Educational Psychology.
- * *Lynette Rojas*, Centennial High School, who plans to attend NMSU and major in Elementary/Bilingual Education.
- * *Emma Valdez*, Organ Mountain High School, who plans to attend NMSU and major in Nursing.

Their pictures are shown below.

All of the True Grit Awardees are being invited to attend our June 14th luncheon so they can meet our members and we can honor them for their accomplishments!

Thank you to the True Grit Award Selection Task Force working with me: Mary Borer, Carol McDonell, and Jean Roach! They did an outstanding job of soliciting applications from Las Cruces Public High Schools and honoring the intent of this award with the selection process.

Thank you also to this year's True Grit Advocates: Laura Bemis, Leslie Fisher, Judy Gilbert, Jan Hampton, and Jo LaTorre! They are personally connecting with the awardees as the “face” of AAUW-LC and ensuring they receive their monetary award.

And thank you to all our members for your ongoing support of our scholarship and award endeavors!

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Stephanie Rodriguez



Lynette Rojas



Emma Valdez



Adiana Nevares

TRUE GRIT !!!



Isabella Fierro



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Month of June:

LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

National Caribbean American Heritage Month

Black Music Month

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

Portuguese-American Heritage Month

Men's Health Month

Jun 1: **Say Something Nice Day**

Jun 5: **HIV Long-Term Survivors Awareness Day**

Jun 5: **World Environment Day**

Jun 6-7: **Eid al-Adha (Islam)**

Jun 8: **Race Unity Day**

Jun 12: **Loving Day**

Jun 14: **US Army Birthday**

Jun 18: **International Day of Countering Hate Speech**

Jun 19: **Juneteenth**

Jun 20: **World Refugee Day**

Jun 21: **Summer Solstice**

Jun 28: **Pride Day (LGBTQIA+)**

Month of July:

Disability Pride Month

French American Heritage Month

BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month

Jul 8: **Massachusetts Emancipation Day**

Jul 11: **World Population Day**

Jul 14: **International Non-Binary Peoples Day**
Jul 18: **International Nelson Mandela Day**
Jul 18-Aug. 17: **South Asian Heritage Month**
Jul 26: **National Disability Independence Day**
Jul 30: **International Day of Friendship**

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

STATE CONVENTION REPORT

Our Branch hosted the NM State Convention on April 26th in Mesilla. Many of our members attended for a great showing.

Two of our own – former Branch President, Christa Slaton, and former National Board President, Julia Brown, each gave stimulating stories of their lives. Julia especially urged us to get involved and active in AAUW. We also heard from Dona Ana's first female Sheriff, who shared her journey in a male-dominated field.

Our own Anne Chase and Kathie Davis were elected State Co-Presidents.

Joann Latorre received the Mission in Action Award from the State. We had three former Tech Trek attendees share how much Tech Trek had influenced them.

We are already starting to plan for the next State Convention, which will hopefully be combined with the AAUW Regional Conference. We expect to hold it in Albuquerque. If you would like to be involved, contact Kathie Davis at kadkathryn@gmail.com.

The Annual Report has been published and is available online at AAUW.org. It is available to all members.

Anne Chase, New Mexico State Co-President



HONORS TO JOANN LATORRE

The annual meeting of the New Mexico state AAUW honored one of our own. Joann Latorre, PhD, received the AAUW-NM Mission in Action Award for 2025.

Members will know her through her contributions as a presenter to our branch's *Girls Can!* event, and for the past two years, to AAUW New Mexico's Tech Trek. Jo's STEM outreach goes beyond AAUW- NM programs. She also offers a variety of events in schools around New Mexico for students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Dr. Latorre holds leadership positions in several state and local professional organizations. In 2021, Jo co-led *Mitigating Unwanted Biases: DACC Equity, Diversity,*

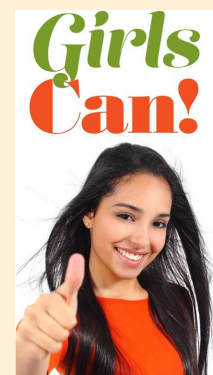
Dr. Latorre earned her PhD in Chemistry & Curriculum and Instruction and holds two Masters of Science degrees in Medicinal Chemistry and in Secondary Education and Chemistry.

Las Cruces branch member Laura Bemis nominated JoAnn.

Girls Can!

Girls Can! 2026 is now on the calendar of DACC. We are scheduled for **March 7, 2026**, and have been cleared for next year's program, and rooms at the East Mesa Campus have been reserved.

In addition to the program for sixth-grade girls from Dona Ana County, 2026 will mark the 30th anniversary of *Girls Can!* While a few things are already in progress, if you have ideas that you would like to have considered, please contact Pat Johnson.



Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

As mentioned in a previous article, we are so grateful for the generosity of our members and the communities that support our work.

Total funds raised for GIRLS CAN! \$12,856.84 with total expenditures of \$11,493.11 thus providing a carry-over of \$1,363.73

Total funds raised for Scholarships (True Grit, NMSU Endowed and NCCWSL) \$ 5,663.11 with total expenditures of \$366.06, thus leaving a carry-over of \$5,297.05. \$3,000 of that carry-over is approved for distribution for True Grit Awards offered in July and August.

Two things to note: the majority of the expenditures for this scholarship category is spent after the beginning of the new fiscal year. AAUW National used to sponsor a Leadership Conference known as NCCWSL. Our local branch did not sponsor participants this year.

Total funds raised for Tech Trek were \$1,500 through the branch, with all sent to Tech Trek. Members often donate to Teck Trek directly through their website.

This report is subject to changes, as the fiscal year does not end until June 30. Please feel free to ask for more details if interested. Remember that we move 10% of all funds raised to the operations budget. With the passage of the proposed budget, we will now take 5% for operations. (The exception to this is funds raised from businesses, foundations, and external donations).

Many thanks for your very generous donations to the good work we do to move our mission forward.

Kay Brilliant, Fundraising 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 New Mexico.

Click here for a pdf of the [2025-2026 Membership Brochure](#) that you can print or email and give to prospective members.

Michele Rasch & Jennifer Burk, Membership Co-VPs

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 June 9 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Milagro Beanfield War* by John Nichols. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet June 23 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Birds Without Wings* by Louis de Bernieres. 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 2025-2027 elected and appointed leadership team.

[2025-2027 Board of Directors](#)

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 to you by clicking on the [link](#) in the following month's OMV.

Click here for the latest [Board-approved minutes](#):

Communications

In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website and Facebook page. All Branch emails will be sent by **Lynette Schurdevin**, President, 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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dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading



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