



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

General Meeting

Our speaker for October is **Gina Reyes**, Director of the Avanza Student Success Center for Doña Ana Community College.

Ms. Reyes is a dedicated advocate for student success with a career in higher education spanning over two decades. Her journey began at Doña Ana Community College (DACC) in 2005 as a Front Desk Clerk in the Financial Aid office. Through her hard work and commitment, she earned several promotions, advancing to Financial Aid Processor and then Financial Aid Advisor before moving to New Mexico State University (NMSU) as a Scholarship Coordinator and later as the Associate Director of Financial Aid.

Gina's professional path led her to her dream position as the Director of the Avanza Student Success Center. After researching the role, she realized it aligned perfectly with her degree in Family and Child Science and her passion for helping students thrive. She is dedicated to ensuring students can meet their basic needs, empowering them to focus on their academic goals and complete their degrees. She is especially passionate about assisting those who are less fortunate and may not have a mentor

or a cheerleader in their corner.

We look forward to meeting Ms. Reyes and learning more about Avanza and how AAUW can support the work being done for women at DACC.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Chairs

From our President

I'm in London enjoying a long-anticipated trip.

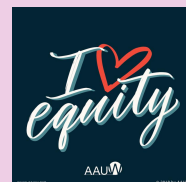
But I will see you at the October General Meeting!!

Lynette Schurdevin



Public Policy

It's election season! This year we have only municipal elections. *Early voting starts Oct. 7, and election day is Nov. 4.*



In Las Cruces, three school board seats and three city council seats are in contention. In addition, we will decide on a GO (General Obligation) bond question from the Doña Ana county commissioners.

Because AAUW focuses so much on education, we need to pay particular attention to the school board election. (To review AAUW's educational initiatives, go to [AAUW Education](#).) The current school board has supported LGBTQ students, resisted efforts to ban books, improved multicultural and multilingual education, and promoted inclusive curricula, including STEM.

For an overview about the upcoming election, the races, and candidates, go to [Las Cruces Bulletin Council and School Board Elections](#). As this *Bulletin* article notes, the City Council races will use ranked-choice voting. For information about this process, see this [Ranked-Choice Voting](#) Facebook video produced by the Doña Ana Elections Bureau.

To check on your voter registration, go to [Dona Ana County Elections Bureau](#).

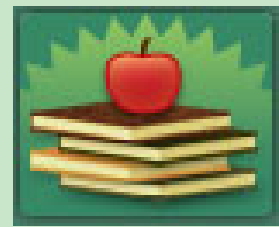
To find your precinct, learn where you can vote, and see your personal sample ballot, go to [NM Secretary of State Voter Information Portal](#). The sample ballot will be available in early October.

The League of Women Voters produces its own Voter Guide in print and electronic form. ([vote411.org](#)). Look for the printed Voter Guide as an insert in *The Las Cruces Bulletin* starting in early October. In the League's Voter Guide, candidates respond to questions about their positions. *The Las Cruces Bulletin* is also publishing candidates' explanations about their positions.

Be sure to vote, and get your friends and family members to vote!

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

Academic Outreach



AAUW-LC strongly promotes girls' and women's education! Programs supported, funded, and created by Las Cruces branch members reach an age continuum from girls to women:

6th grade girls in Dona Ana County can experience *Girls Can!*, an annual career exploration conference presented by professional women. The concept was designed by National AAUW in 1993 to promote young girls' interest in STEM and was first presented in 1996 in Las Cruces at Lynn Middle School. The conference was moved to DACC in 2017 to give attendees the experience of going to classes on a college campus. We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of AAUW-LC Girls Can! this year!

8th grade girls can experience *Tech Trek*, an annual 5 day summer STEM camp. The concept was designed by National AAUW to promote girls' interest and immersion in STEM fields on a college campus. The first AAUW Tech Trek-NM was held at NMSU main campus in 2014 and a couple of years later moved to New Mexico Tech in Socorro NM. To attend, girls must go through a statewide application and selection process.

Graduating high school senior girls in Las Cruces may apply to receive an AAUW-LC *True Grit* Award. This award program originated with AAUW-LC in 1988 and was first given as a gift certificate or a dictionary to a young woman at the San Andres Alternative High School (now known as Rio Grande Preparatory Institute). Since that time the awards have grown to be several significant monetary awards which are granted annually through a selection process before high school graduation.

Undergraduate NMSU or DACC college women may be eligible to receive an AAUW-LC *Endowed Scholarship*. This endowment fund was established by AAUW-LC members in 1988 through NMSU Foundation and was fully vested in 2000. Scholarships are granted annually from the earnings fund and are administered by NMSU Financial Aid Office and Scholar Dollar\$.

Graduate students may apply for national AAUW Fellowships & Grants but we are considering establishing our own graduate student award program. **Stay tuned...!!**

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

October

LGBTQIA+ History Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Filipino American Heritage Month

German American Heritage Month

Italian American Heritage Month

Polish American Heritage Month

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Bullying Prevention Month

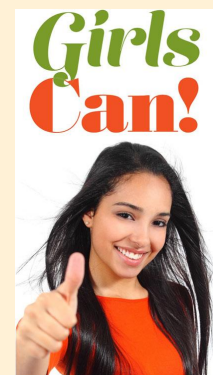
Down Syndrome Awareness Month
Global Diversity Awareness Month
ADHD Awareness Month

Oct 1-2: **Yom Kippur (Jewish)**
Oct 2: **International Day of Nonviolence**
Oct 2: **National Poetry Day**
Oct 4: **No Disposable Cup Day**
Oct 6: **Bullying Prevention Awareness Day**
Oct 9: **Indigenous People's Day**
Oct 10: **World Mental Health Day**
Oct 11: **National Coming Out Day**
Oct 13: **Indigenous People's Day**
Oct 13: **Navy Birthday**
Oct 15: **Blind Americans Equality Day and White Cane Awareness Day**
Oct 15: **International Pronouns Day**
Oct 16: **Spirit Day**
Oct 22: **International Stuttering Awareness Day**

Girls Can!

March 7, 2026 is the date for the next *Girls Can!*.

Mark your calendars – we will need a lot of volunteers to help on the day of the event and as many to assist committees before March 7. To address the congestion from previous years we plan on having three different entrances when the girls arrive. This means we will need a few more volunteers from about 7:30 a.m. until 9:00.



We now have commitments from more than twenty presenters and rooms reserved for as many as thirty workshops. As they were last year, workshops will be organized in career clusters. While many workshops have been presented annually for several years, career cluster organization will encourage girls to choose workshops in diverse areas.

Two new clusters will be added in 2026. One will focus on professions in communication both for information and entertainment and the second on careers for entrepreneurs and businesses. “Science & Engineering,” “Responders & Enforcers” and “Health and Medicine” will continue from last year, but they will be modified slightly to add more diversity. Various areas of the Arts will be infused in different clusters. Our goal in expanding offerings is that our student participants will be afforded experiences from a wide range of possibilities for their career futures.

Girls Can! 2026 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the event. We hope to celebrate that milestone in myriad ways and are looking for someone/s to lead that effort.

We have set up an email address exclusively for *Girls Can!*:
GC.AAUW.LC@GMAIL.COM. You can use that address or ohnsonjatp@gmail.com to contact Pat Johnson, *Girls Can!* coordinator.

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator



LYNCH CREEK FARM FUNDRAISER IS IN FULL SWING!

Lynch Creek Farm has kicked off the fundraising season and if you use the instructions below, our chapter will receive 10% of all sales! You can order your holiday gifts until December 14. If you pre-order before September 30 a 10% discount is being offered on all sales AND a free rustic door hanger.

If you have any questions about the products or services, contact the lovely people at Lynch Creek at (888) 426-0781 or call me at (270) 350-3164.

Here's how easy it is to shop for beautiful gifts and support Girls Can!

- 1) Go to www.lynchcreekwreaths.com to discover their attractive holiday greenery.
- 2) Log into your account or create an account.
- 3) Shop, shop, shop! It's easy to add recipient addresses and delivery date.
- 4) During checkout add **Campaign ID 0685400 (AAUW-LC Holiday Cheer 2025)** so our chapter will earn its 10%
- 5) Thank you for making a difference!

Terrye Doyle, Fundraising Co-chair!"

Fundraising

Beaded Items Sales Continue

Thank you to all those who purchased or ordered pumpkins and beaded items at the September General Meeting. We took in about \$350 after reimbursing Kay Gross for the glass items.

At the October General Meeting on Oct. 11, we will add winter holiday themed items for sale, along with what we had in September and newly created ones from Kay Gross and Lynne Lord. We are so pleased that our artist friend Kay will be there to meet and greet you all. You can get to know her, browse her portfolio, and see what she has coming up. Lynne will have additional pumpkin items to replace the ones we sold in September.

A reminder: All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund.

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Volunteer Needed for Name Tag Lanyards

In 2026 we need someone to bring and sell name tag lanyards at the General Meetings (7 meetings per year). Lynne Lord will continue to make and repair lanyards as needed. Your job would be to bring some lanyards for each meeting, display them, sell any asked for, re-box at the end, and take the remainders home.

It's an easy job. Please see Donna Yargosz if you are interested.

Kay Brilliant, Donna Yargosz and Terrye Doyle, Co-Fundraising Coordinators

Fundraising Update

Thanks to everyone for the tremendous support on Period Poverty.



Our donations to both NMSU and DACC will be abundant. This includes many boxes of feminine hygiene products and cash donations totaling \$260.00 by members present .

More information to follow about future contributions.

Laura Bemis

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

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on October 13 at 1:30 pm to discuss *Fever in the Heartland*, by Timothy Egan. Contact **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on October 27 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*, by Kay Williams .Contact: **Mary Barker**

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 is an annual, nonpartisan discussion program on world affairs produced by the **Foreign Policy Association (FPA)**. Every year, the program highlights eight critical foreign policy challenges facing the United States and provides

materials—a briefing book, videos, and discussion groups—to help citizens learn about and discuss these issues. 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 **Karen Dumont** 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.

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 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"*)

*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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Go to AAUW.org and click on the following link to see all the discounts and membership perks.

[AAUW membership benefits](#)

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ACADEMY FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT

Fall 2025 Courses

October: Museums of Las Cruces

November: Echos in the Sand

December: Visual and Verbal Weapons in WWII

**Courses offered at DACC Auditorium- East Mesa
2800 North Sonoma Ranch Blvd.**

For Course Schedule and Registration

<https://alrsite.my.canva.site/fall-2025>

RYAN BEMIS

DOCTOR OF ORIENTAL MEDICINE



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Ryan Bemis
Acupuncturist
Doctor, Oriental Medicine
100 W. Griggs

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**, editor.

dumontkm@gmail.com

Thank you for reading. We like feedback from you.



AAUW-LC, PO Box 1081, Las Cruces, NM 88004

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