



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

HAPPY 102 YEARS OF AAUW – LC!

This year promises to be another year of interesting, informative and entertaining programs and speakers.

Our program for the September 13th meeting will be a presentation by the Interest Group leaders and information on "Period Poverty".

We are fortunate to have seven Interest Groups in our chapter: Anything Goes Book Club, Anything Goes Fiction Book Club, Bridge, Chinese Mahjong, Great Decisions and Going Places. Anne Chase, Carol Ann Council, Rita Worrell, Susan Hychka and Michele Rasch will be informing and inviting us to join their Interest Group.

Laura Bemis will speak to us about "Period Poverty", a project that supports college women via NMSU Aggie Cupboard and DACC Comfort Casita.

We look forward to meeting and seeing new and returning members. We

welcome guests.

RoseAnn Hernández & Tricia Brainard, Programs Co-VPs

From our President Lynette Schurdevin



I enjoyed a wonderful summer with trips to the Finger Lakes, including the Women's Suffragette Museum in Seneca Falls, time with my aunt in Iowa, and finally relaxing at home.

I look forward to this coming year and the many programs and events that we will be supporting and doing. This will include co-sponsoring the League of Women Voters - Las Cruces candidate forums for Las Cruces Public Schools board and City counselors. We will help to get the vote out!

We will hear about supporting college women by donating new boxes of tampons and sanitary pads so they will have easy access to and free of charge. Members' donations will be given to the New Mexico State University Aggie Cupboard and the DACC Comfort Casita.

Membership will give us an update on how our chapter is doing supporting new and current members.

Programs' leaders will highlight their year, and I look forward to the continuation of professional speakers here in Las Cruces that continue to keep us informed on many of our concerns and issues that we support.

Kay Brilliant will discuss our training for board members in September.

And thank you to Christine Long for stepping in for Lani Davis while she is out of country until we see her in November. I can see that our funds are being well taken care of by Christine.

Looking forward to leading you this 2025-26 year!

President Lynette Schurdevin

AAUW-Las Cruces Period Poverty Drive Saturday, September 13th



Join us in supporting college women by supplying feminine hygiene products to the NMSU Aggie Cupboard and DACC Comfort Casita.

At our September 13, 2025 general meeting, we will be gathering new boxes of tampons and sanitary pads so that students will have easy and free access to free period supplies.

What to shop for?

Packaged tampons or sanitary pads (any size).

What if I forget?

You will be able to give a cash donation to support this cause. Products will be purchased by participating members.

THANK YOU!

Laura Bemis

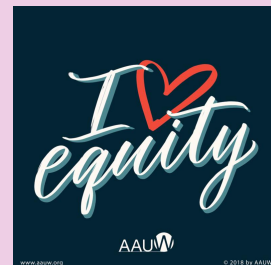
Public Policy


The U.S. educational system is under assault, imperiling student access and the social mobility that education brings. The Department of Education has been all but eliminated, its tools to ensure civil rights for special education and other students and its ability to evaluate educational access severely weakened. Universities around the country have lost billions in federal funding in health and science research. Programs that help first generation and under-represented students have been eliminated. The federal government is now intruding on decisions regarding admissions, curriculum, and faculty. Transformative programs for K-12 students have been eliminated.

AAUW is a vital voice in pushing back against this war on education. In a recent piece published in *The Contrarian*, her Substack newsletter, former Washington Post columnist Jennifer Rubin cited AAUW's statement on higher education as evidence of resistance against efforts to crush higher education, citing AAUW's statement that "our nation's future depends on higher education that is accessible, inclusive, and free from political interference."


AAUW's 2025 Strategic Plan focuses on expanding access to higher education. By supporting AAUW through our memberships and donations, as well as the mentoring that we do with students, we can play an important role in resisting this assault on education.

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair





NM HEALTHCARE CRISIS: Medical Provider Shortage



The League of Women Voters of Southern New Mexico
invites you to attend its September 2025 General Membership Meeting
to discuss New Mexico's growing shortage of medical providers.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025 • 2:00 p.m.
Doña Ana Community College Workforce Center
2345 Nevada Ave.
Free

Panel Discussion Guest Speakers:
Dr. Arthur Berkson, President, Doña Ana County Medical Society
Fred Nathan, Think New Mexico
Walt Rubel, Journalist
Kathe Stark, Patients Primero Steering Committee

Snacks Provided
The meeting will also be on Zoom.
Click the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82767344928>
You will also need this passcode: 693935

For more information: lwvsnm@gmail.com



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

SEPTEMBER

National Guide Dog Month

Suicide Prevention Month

Sep 1: Labor Day

Sep 5: International Day of Charity

Sept. 15 – Oct. 15: Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx Heritage Month

Sep 16: Mexican Independence Day

Sep 18: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

Sep 20: HeForShe movement anniversary

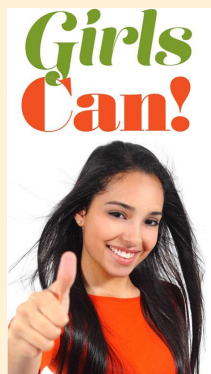
Sep 21: [International Day of Peace](#)
Sep 22-24: [Rosh Hashanah \(Judaism\)](#)
Sep 22-28: [International Week of the Deaf](#)
Sep 22-Oct 2: [Navratri \(Hindu\)](#)
Sep 22: [American Business Women's Day](#)
Sep 23: [International Day of Sign Languages](#)
Sep 27: [National Native American Day](#)
Sep 26: [European Day of Languages](#)
Sep 30: [National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools](#)

Tricia Brainard, Diversity Coordinator

Girls Can!

PLEASE RESERVE MARCH 7, 2026 FOR GIRLS CAN!

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! Coordinator



Yearbook News

Yearbook 2025-2026 will be an 8.5 x 11" booklet available both electronically and as a hard copy. We will have a sign up sheet at the September meeting for those who prefer a hard copy. The hard copies will be distributed at the October meeting.

Information on how to access the electronic copy also will be given in October.

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 Chair

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on September 8 at 1:30 pm to discuss *James* by Percival Everett . Contact **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group will meet on September 29 at 1:30 pm to discuss *The Lost Apothecary* by Sara Penner . 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 This group meets eight or nine times a year via Zoom, usually on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. We discuss international issues chosen by the Foreign Policy Association. We prepare by reading an eight or nine page briefing paper by a subject matter expert, and we start each session by watching a 20 minute video lecture that clarifies the options and challenges the world faces.
Contact: **Susan Hychka**

Going Places See notice below.

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.

Mark your calendars for our October *Going Places* Adventure

Wednesday, October 15 we will visit the NMSU Herbaria, the oldest herbarium in the state.

NMSU herbaria resources represent the premier reference collection for the entire southern half of New Mexico, surrounding areas and elements of northern Mexico. The herbaria include more than 80% of all vascular plant type specimens housed within the state. Professional botanists have used specimens from the herbaria as the basis for a guide to the grasses of New Mexico and a series of comprehensive books on all aspects of flora, which have become standard references for the state.

If you are a lover of all things "plants", I urge you to check out the NMSU Herbaria Website, a source of excellent and interesting videos

Our tour of the herbaria begins at 2 pmat the NMSU Biology Annex and should last 45 – 60 minutes. The tour is limited to 12 persons, so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to participate.

Lunch before the tour will be at the *Fig and Brie Charcuterie*, 12 noon. *Fig and Brie* is located at 901 E. University. If you have not eaten there, I am sure you will love this charming restaurant.

Email or text me to reserve your spot.

Michele Rasch
Rasch@sbcc.edu
805 452 - 2789

Bits of News

Long time AAUW-LC member, Judith P. McGuire, died on 7/27/25, aged 82.

Judy earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1962 at University of Washington and later earned a Masters in Hospital Administration. She helped St. Joseph Hospital in Albuquerque start Hospice and also a home healthcare division in the early 1970s and then went on to lead two homecare agencies in Honolulu, HI, and another in San Diego, CA.

In retirement, Judy and her husband Jim ("Mac") settled in Las Cruces, NM, where she was an active AAUW member and vital to the Yearbook, Book Group, Communications Committees and was editor of the Organ Mountain View. She was also very involved at the State level, serving many years as the "Roadrunner" Editor and on the Tech Trek Board.

Judy and her husband enjoyed traveling the country in their RV as well as exploring far away places, including Vietnam, Korea, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Germany, and Ireland. They also loved scuba diving, in places like the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, Turks & Caicos and recently, Belize.

In addition to her husband, Mac, Judy is survived by four children, grandchildren and many great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life for Judy McGuire will be held at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in the Organ View Terrace room on the 12th of September 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The Museum is located at 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces NM 88011.

Judy's husband Mac has requested no flowers, but you may consider giving to the Southwest Cancer Support Group at 2450 S Telshor Blvd, Memorial Medical Center Annex, Room B, Las Cruces, New Mexico, 88011. Judy found tremendous friendships and support with these fellow survivors of cancer.

Life Member, Phoebe Pierce, passed away June 15, 2025 aged 91. She studied at The Ohio State University in Sociology and at Harvard Radcliffe for Business and earned an MBA from New Mexico State University for Accounting. She worked her entire career for El Paso Electric.

Phoebe was passionate about education for women, her church, theatre and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

She was survived by three children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her family suggested in her obituary that a donation could be made to AAUW.

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 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.*



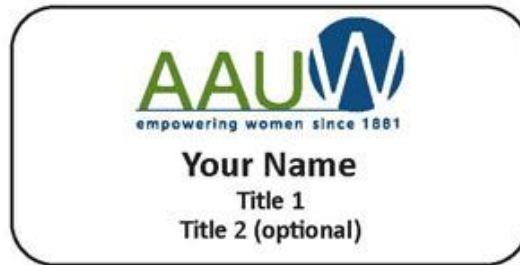
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Thank you for reading



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