



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 and Program



'Tis the season to celebrate! Mark your calendars and dust off your favorite festive sweater - our **AAUW Holiday Luncheon** is coming up!

Join us for good food, joyful company, and a chance to celebrate another year of lifting up women and girls in our community. Trade stress for smiles and to-do lists for conversation—one bite and one laugh at a time...come hungry, leave inspired.

Where: Workforce Center 2345 Nevada Ave

When: Dec 13, 2025

When: Fun and games begin at 11:00 and lunch from Olive Garden will be served at 11:30.

How Much: \$22

Make your reservation with Lani Davis by Dec 8.

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Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at the *DACC Workforce Center*, 2345 Nevada Ave.

From Our President

'tis the season!

As we prepare for this holiday season, we all look forward to being with family, friends and the many holiday season activities.



I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual holiday lunch and the many fun Auction items that will be available to bid on.

Several board members have been busy with various tasks that we hope to bring forward to the membership in the new year.

We continue to welcome new members, which increases our presence in our community.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season. And I'm looking forward to working with you in the new year.

Happy holidays!

Lynette Schurdevin, President

Public Policy



The U.S. Department of Education (DE), established in 1979 to protect students' civil rights and centralize education assistance, has been effectively dismantled. After massive staff layoffs, its work has been shifted to other federal agencies that lack a focus on education. This change will make it harder to ensure educational effectiveness and accountability.

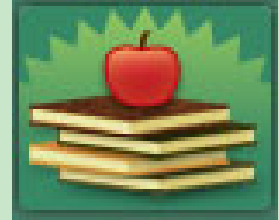
AAUW has issued a [strong statement](#) opposing this move and has joined with over [60 civil rights and education organizations](#) to denounce this act that threatens the rights of students, in particular those with disabilities and/or from underrepresented groups. Be on the lookout for an AAUW action alert that will tell us how to advocate against this illegal move.

Kate Mangelsdorf, Public Policy Chair

Academic Outreach

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..."

And it's time to share our **NMSU AAUW-LC Endowed Scholarship** recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year.



NMSU-Main Campus recipients are:

- *Ruwaa Al Aqtash, Civil Engineering
- *Alondra Garcia, Civil Engineering
- *April Gonzales, Chemical Engineering
- *Lily McMillan, Communication Disorders and Linguistics

DACC recipients are:

- *Lisiette Hernandez, Criminal Justice and Social Work
- *Jessica Nisbett, Computer Information Systems
- *Vianette Perez, Computer Technology, Programming and Cybersecurity
- *Diana Valles, Graphic Design

Thanks to our members' donations and the continued growth of our principal and earnings funds with NMSU Foundation, we were able to award each of these deserving women a \$1,045 scholarship! With the rising costs of a college education and the current cutbacks in federal funding, supporting women as they pursue higher education is more important than ever!

Each scholarship recipient sent us a heart warming thank you letter. Those letters will be shared with members in a holiday booklet at the December luncheon. If you are unable to attend, the booklet will be mailed to you.

"Cheers!" to a holiday season that's as sweet as a cup of cocoa!

Londa Seiffert, Academic Chair



Diversity Equity and Inclusion

December

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month

Universal Human Rights Month

Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month

Dec 1: **World AIDS Day**

Dec 3: **International Day for People with Disabilities**

Dec 5: **International Volunteer Day**

Dec 8: **Bodhi Day**

Dec 9: **International Genocide Prevention Day**

Dec 10: **International Human Rights Day**

Dec 13: **National Guard Birthday**

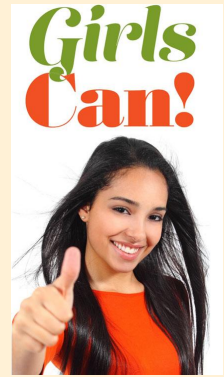
Dec 21: **Winter Solstice**

Dec 14 - 22: **Hanukkah**

Dec 25: **Christmas**

Girls Can!

Once again, a reminder that Saturday, **March 7, 2026** is the date for the next **Girls Can!**. With the program of presentations mostly in place, we are mapping out plans for getting students signed up to attend. In addition to the three Doña Ana County School Districts (Gadsden, Las Cruces, and Hatch) the school contact team works to inform and register sixth grade girls from private/parochial schools, charter schools and homeschools.



As many of you already know, **Girls Can! 2026** will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the event. We hope to celebrate that milestone in myriad ways. We will form a separate committee to plan and orchestrate those events. .

If you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to text at 732-740-0463 or email Pat Johnson, Coordinator at ohnsonjatp@gmail.com

Pat Johnson, Girls Can! 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.

Please remember to wear your badges to meetings. We want to make sure everyone feels comfortable knowing each other.

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

We Remember Lori LaPlanche

News has reached us of the death of *Laurine A (Lori) LaPlanche*. We have no information about a funeral or memorial service.

For more than two decades, Lori was a devoted member of the AAUW-LC. She filled several roles, including several terms as Membership Co-Vice President and as Communications Email Chair. She also originated one of our long-standing book groups and was a regular reader and contributor.

Lori also was Co-founder of the Breast Cancer Support Group of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and a supporter of the Children's Reading Alliance.

An alumna of the University of Maryland, Lori achieved her doctorate in chemistry from Michigan State University. She went on to teach Chemistry at Northern Illinois University and authored several academic articles in chemistry.

Interest Groups

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



Anything Goes Book Group will meet on December 8 at 11:00 pm for a Holiday Luncheon and to choose books for the coming year. Contact: **Anne Chase**.

Anything Goes Fiction Book Group is now being called Judy's Book Group! It will meet Monday, December 1 at 11:30 am at the Sunset Grill for lunch and to choose books for the coming year. RSVP: **Toni Terrell**.

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 Contact: **Susan Hychka** for a briefing book and further details.

Going Places - Stay tuned. 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 **RoseAnn Hernández** 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

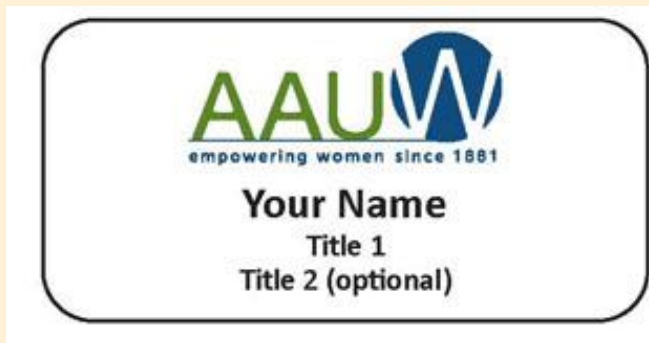
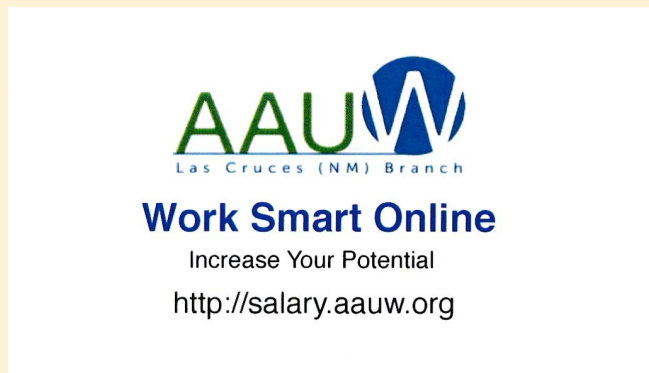
In addition to the *Organ Mountain Views* (OMV), we maintain a Website. All Branch emails will be sent by **Lynette Schurdevin**, President, and/or **Michele Rasch**, Email Coordinator.

[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.*



Click on the box below, and it will take you to the AAUW 2025 Work Smart Webinars



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ACADEMY FOR LEARNING IN RETIREMENT



December 3rd and 4th at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Visual and Verbal Weapons in WWII

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



For Course Schedule and Registration
Click on QR Code or go to this website
<https://alrsite.my.canva.site/fall-2025>

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