

# The ROADRUNNER

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The ROADRUNNER is a quarterly publication of AAUW-NM. Deanise Marta, Editor (roadrunnernm@gmail.com) Please submit address changes to your branch membership chair.

Members-at-large: Notify AAUW Records Office, 1111 16th St., Washington, DC 20038.

# GRANT COUNTY HOSTS SUPERB STATE CONVENTION

The Grant County branch of AAUW hosted the AAUW-NM 2011 Spring Convention from April 15th through the 17th in Silver City. The theme for this year's convention, "Why So Few," refers to the lack of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. This was a very appropriate theme for our branch, as our major project for the past 19 years has been the Expanding Your Horizons Conference for 5th - 8th grade girls, a conference that encourages girls to choose STEM careers.

We were honored to have two national AAUW representatives attend our convention: Dr. Andresse St. Rose, an AAUW researcher and co-author of the recently published AAUW report titled Why So Few: Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and Connie Hildebrand, an AAUW director-atlarge, who took on several tasks at our meetings and also presented a workshop.



Andresse St. Rose (l.) and Connie Hildebrand

On Saturday morning, Barbara Counts, a Grant County branch member and wife of retiring WNMU President John Counts, introduced the two Saturday morning speakers. Dr. Andressse St. Rose gave the keynote address on the findings of her research. This research looked at the under representation of women in the STEM careers. Andresse gave an outstanding presentation and also distributed copies of the research findings.



Roxanne Lara

Roxanne Lara, co-president of the Carlsbad branch, followed the keynote with a talk on her participation in the Vision 2020 project. Vision 2020 has a decade-long agenda to promote gender equity in America, and achieve this goal by the centennial of the 19th amendment in 2020. It includes two women from each state plus two from the District of Columbia. Roxanne was one of the two women from New Mexico chosen for the project. In October, Roxanne was able to meet the other outstanding women involved in Vision 2020 at a dynamic two-day conference.

Following lunch, we began the first workshop session. We offered two concurrent workshops. "Why So Few and what we can do about it" was conducted by Andresse St. Rose. Sara Morales from New Mexico State University and Adrienne Dare also participated in this workshop. The second workshop, "Write Your Memoir," was conducted by Patty Reed.

The next workshop session offered three concurrent workshops: "Women in Society - Israel" by Connie Hildebrand, in which Connie reported on her participation in an AAUW Women in Society delegation to Israel; "New Mexico Water Issues: Challenges for the Future," by Allyson Siwik, which addressed the concerns of many members about water issues in the state; and "The 3 'R's' of Movement," a relaxing workshop by Melinda Shaner involving body movement.

We held a short business meeting Saturday afternoon to elect new officers for the 2011-2013 term. Connie Hildebrand then presented an AAUW National Update, Mission 2011, to keep us informed about what is going on nationally at AAUW.

(State Convention, cont.)

The Saturday banquet at the Bear Mountain Lodge with 55 in attendance was a fabulous success. During a social hour before dinner, we enjoyed appetizers served with New Mexico wine provided by the Grant County branch. At a cost of \$3.00 per glass, with \$1.00 of the cost going to AAUW Funds, this was a great bargain. Our dinner speaker, Dr. Cynthia Bettison, Grant County member, archaeologist and director of the WNMU museum spoke on "Reflections on Cultivating and Sustaining Women in STEM Fields." The dinner speech was followed by awards and installation of officers.

Sunday morning we completed the convention business, and participated in a Towne Hall meeting led by Connie Hildebrand. During the convention business meetings, a silent auction was running concurrently. By the end of the convention, the silent auction had raised over \$900 for the various AAUW Funds.



Connie Hildebrand installs the 2011-2013 officers.

Many of our new Grant County members attended the activities on Saturday and met our wonderful AAUW members from around the state. Over 70% of our membership participated in this convention. They contributed greatly to the convention's success, and really helped us show off Silver City!

Adrienne Dare, AAUW-Grant County Facilitator

# GRACE BARKER WILSON AND INGENIOUS IDEAS AWARDS PRESENTED AT CONVENTION

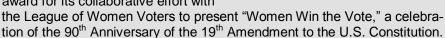
The Grace Barker Wilson Award was presented to Will Anne Ricer, long-time AAUW-Carlsbad member and former state officer. She was nominated for her outstanding dedication to the public and her students in the field of nursing and for her Carlsbad Parish Nurse Program. Her two daughters, both AAUW members, were present during the award presentation

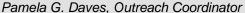


Las Cruces branch members Bonnie Eisenberg (I.), Deanise Marta (c.) and Bonnie Schranz perform a skit at the "Women Win the Vote" celebration.

Two Ingenious Ideas Awards were also presented. The Los Alamos branch received the award for their AAUW Funds night. Branch members and members of the public made contributions to the funds to learn how to play Mahjong, and an enjoyable time was had by all.

The Las Cruces branch received the award for its collaborative effort with







admire the Grace Barker Wilson Award plaque.

# IN MEMORIAM – MARGARET DIKE



Long-time Albuquerque member and former branch president, former state president, and former Leadership Team parliamentarian Margaret Dike passed away on March 31 at the age of 89. She is survived by her four sons and one daughter, all of Albuquerque; 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Margaret earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New Mexico, and a master's degree in Educational Foundations, also from UNM. She worked for many years in the Albuquerque Public Schools as a school community affairs specialist. But she will be remembered by her AAUW colleagues for her incredible wit, gentle demeanor, and the booming voice that would come from the back of the meeting room whenever anyone began a motion with any words other than "I MOVE." RIP, Margaret.

Deanise Marta, Roadrunner Editor

# A (CO)-PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

We had a wonderful Leadership Team meeting and Convention in Silver City over the weekend of April 15-17. I had never had the opportunity to visit Silver City before, and was delighted to tour downtown and learn about the history through the "eyes" of an historic woman resident and entrepreneur. The "big ditch," in particular, is very impressive.

During the weekend the participants, who came from all over the state, learned a lot from the speakers, and had good interactions with each other. We said "hello and welcome" to new Leadership Team members and "good-bye," (at least for awhile), to a few others.

One of the biggest discussion items we faced during the Leadership Team meeting was whether or not to apply for a national Public Policy Impact Grant. It was very apparent to those of us who had been on recent conference calls that the Association has high expectations (and little money) for the ten states that will participate in this effort for intensive voter education and "get out the vote" activities during the next 18 months. As a Leadership Team, we decided that all of our branches should continue the election-year activities that we have performed so successfully in the past, and add any new activities that are appropriate for the branch's local community. But we would prefer to do it at our pace and without national oversight. The election of 2012 will be a very important one for the state and the nation, and we know that our members and branches will continue to be involved at the highest level possible.

Mary and I are looking forward to a new year for AAUW. Let's make it a great one!

Shelley Rossbach, Co-President

# A THANK YOU FROM CONNIE HILDEBRAND

Dear Shelley and AAUW-NM members,

A short note of thanks for your welcome and your camaraderie last weekend (*editor's note: April 15—17*) in New Mexico. I had a wonderful time, and hope you did as well.

My Zia pin, representing the cultures of New Mexico, my beautiful handbag gift, my Harlem Renaissance book of New Mexico's Anita Scott Coleman's work, and, of course, my "sombrero," will hold reminders for me for many years to come of the spectacular hospitality of New Mexico's AAUW!

Keep up the great work, sisters of mine!

Connie

#### THANK YOU GRANT COUNTY!

We wish to thank the Grant County branch for hosting an outstanding Spring Convention. Adrienne Dare did a remarkable job of orchestrating the entire event. Our AAUW Director-at-Large visitor, Connie Hildebrand, commented that it was one of the best conventions she had ever attended!

Special appreciation also goes to Kathie Gilbert who arranged for the venue at Western New Mexico University, prepared the Convention notebook and badges, arranged for the delicious lunch catered by Cobre High School's Culinary class, and attended to every detail of the weekend. Priscilla Mathena, in-coming co-president of Grant County branch, was an invaluable assistant to Adrienne and Kathie.

The constant supply of snacks was coordinated by Lucy Wilson. Jackie Frank was responsible for the historic walk and the museum tour, as well as the items in the welcome bag. Melinda Shaner's dance students provided lunch entertainment. Dixie Dexter reserved the Holiday Inn Express and Linda Lowrance worked with the Bear Mountain Lodge to organize the fabulous Saturday evening banquet. Sharyn McDonald had a perfect registration procedure and Jane Medlin assisted with the silent auction. Barbara Counts introduced the Saturday morning speakers. Adrienne reported that 17 of Grant Co.'s 24 members participated in some way — what a grand demonstration of branch strength! Kudos to every member of the Grant County branch for a Spring Convention that everyone will long remember!

Mary Sandford and Shelley Rossbach, Co-Presidents

#### AAUW-NM 2011—2012 PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

AAUW-NM supports AAUW's mission: advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW-NM supports the Association Public Policy Program. We support constitutional protection for the rights of all individuals, reproductive rights, separation of church and state, social security that is fair to women and opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education.

AAUW-NM supports the issue of "Equity in Education for Women and Girls," academic freedom, protection from censorship, and the Association position in favor of diversity.

AAUW-NM works with other organizations in support of AAUW objectives.

AAUW-NM continues to support the NM State Equal Rights Amendment. Any attempt to revoke or change that NM Constitutional Amendment will become priority for action. We believe in policies that promote justice and human rights and we recognize the need for a clean and healthful environment in an interdependent world.

# Priorities 2011-2012

- 1. Support the AAUW program to educate and galvanize women voters.
- 2. Support a strong adequately funded program for public education to include:
  - Integrity of the funding formula
  - Equitable funding for all state supported institutions of higher learning
  - Increased number of instructional days for K-12
  - Early childhood development initiatives
  - Reasonable and fair capital outlay expenditures
  - Adequate federal funding for the "No Child Left Behind" Act
- 3. Support programs to encourage women to achieve economic self-sufficiency at all ages to include:
  - Pay equity
  - Education, training and support for success in the workforce, especially women transferring from welfare to work,
  - Access to quality, affordable dependent care
  - Legal reforms for the prevention of domestic violence.
- 4. Support for quality, affordable health care for all New Mexicans, including choice in the determination of one's reproductive life.
- 5. Support for campaign finance and ethics reform to include creating a statewide Ethics Commission with subpoena powers over statewide elected officials.
- 6. Support for a healthful environment including:
  - Clean air and water
  - Sustainable use of natural resources and green technologies
  - Reasonable guidelines and efforts to develop new energy sources and conservation programs.
- 7. Support of civil liberties and all efforts to preserve the rights guaranteed in the New Mexico Constitution.

# CARLSBAD BRANCH RECEIVES SPRING MINI-GRANT



In the spring round of mini-grant awards, the Carlsbad branch received a \$100 mini-grant for their successful "Girls Achieving Leadership Success" (GALS) program. It is a half-day event where high school girls are encouraged to seek and run for leadership positions in school and other areas of their lives. They learn to prepare a candidate speech and a campaign plan as well as speak with successful elected women officials. The event took place in March and the branch wants to expand it next year.

Applications for the fall round of mini-grants are due by October 1. Remember this as your branch makes programming plans this summer.

Submit your mini-grant applications to me at <a href="mailto:gnthayer@cybermesa.com">gnthayer@cybermesa.com</a>.

Nina Thayer, Chair Mini-Grants Committee

# THREE WOMEN RECEIVE AAUW-NM NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIPS

I am delighted to announce that three New Mexico collegiate women student leaders received AAUW-NM Scholarships to attend the National Conference for Collegiate Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington, D.C., June 2 -4. They stayed on the University of Maryland campus; attended leadership workshops; heared keynote speeches by outstanding women leaders; and networked with more than 500 women from across the country. Please meet our 2011 AAUW-NM NCCWSL Scholarship Recipients.



Serena Allingham

Serina Allingham was a senior at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She graduated this spring. Serina was active in student government at West Las Vegas High School and at NMHU, in the NMHU Activities Board, in the Lambda Kappa Psi sorority, and as a volunteer at the Las Vegas Samaritan House Thrift Store and Homeless Shelter. Serina's goal is to become the first Hispanic female Secretary of State. She says, "This conference is similar to the environment a US Secretary of State would operate in — convening with people from diverse backgrounds, and working and negotiating to solve the various problems presented at the conference."

**Yolanda Patterson** is a sophomore at Central New Mexico Community College studying Health Infor-

mation Technology. Yolanda is a non-traditional student who dropped out of high school at age 15 and re-entered school at age 20. She says, "I realized how much I missed out on by not attending school. I have personally learned the value of education and the obstacles that one can face with a lack of it." Yolanda has been an Individual Development Account Manager for AmeriCorps (VISTA) in Mesa, Arizona, and the New Mexico Team Leader Health Educator for AmeriCorps in Santa Fe. Currently Yolanda is a student employee in the SAGE (School of Adult and General Education) Office where she trains other student employees and has created a new student employee orientation guide for the office. Yolanda is also the recipient of a National AAUW NCCWSL Scholarship.



Yolanda Patterson



Michaela Rempkowski

Michaela Rempkowski is a junior majoring in Chemical Engineering at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. Michaela has been active in student government at both Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque and at New Mexico Tech. She was the Rio Grande High School UNM Upward Bound representative and served as both volleyball and swim captain. She now serves as the NMT Women's Rugby Captain, a team created in 2010, which she and four other women have nurtured and developed. Michaela is a Youth Advocate Programs Advocate working with juvenile delinquents on probation to reshape their lives and choices. Michaela says, "My overall goal with being a leader for several different groups is not only to accomplish the task at hand but to make sure everyone in the group feels as though they are happy and have done their absolute best."

Special thanks go to Adrienne Dare, Silver City; Maryjane Giesler, Los Alamos; and Meta Levister, Las Vegas, who served on the selection committee.

Karyl Lyne, AAUW-NM NCCWSL Chair

## **GOODBYE!**

As this is the last issue I will produce as the *Roadrunner* editor, I wish to thank everyone for their cooperation over the last six years as we moved this newsletter into the era of desktop publishing and electronic distribution. It wasn't easy, but I believe it was very worthwhile and the *Roadrunner* is better for it. Best of luck to the new editor, Pat Maben of the West Mesa branch. I know she will do a superb job!



Deanise Marta

# SPRING MEMBERSHIP REPORT: WHERE DO WE STAND? WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

I am optimistic about the future of AAUW in New Mexico. Some recent accomplishments: 1) The New Mexico Online branch has completed their bylaws; 2) We held the Summer 2010 Leadership Team Meeting in Portales with the hopes of re-establishing their branch. Thank you to Jeannie Ornellas, Karyl Lyne, Natalie Markin, and the New Mexico Leadership Team for planning this meeting, I am happy to report that five Portales members paid state dues, which is a large enough membership to make them an official AAUW—NM branch! The Portales branch interests include Financial Literary and the Start Smart program that teaches women how to favorably negotiate their salaries.

Most New Mexico branches recruited new members. Albuquerque has nine new members, Carlsbad has four new members, Grant County has 12 new members, Las Cruces has 16 new members, Las Vegas has 11 new members, Los Alamos has two new members, and Santa Fe has six new members. Carlsbad has had success in recruiting younger members.

The most important factor here is the effort that branches and the New Mexico Leadership Team put into recruitment and retention. Remember to give a "Grad a Gift" and recognize a new college graduate with a free one-year membership to AAUW.

- Congratulations to Adrienne Dare for recruiting nine new members (individual New Mexico membership recruitment awardee).
- Congratulations to the Las Cruces branch for recruiting the most new members.
- Congratulations to the Grant County branch for highest percentage increase in membership.

Helena Whyte, Membership Vice President

#### THANKS TO RETIRING OFFICERS...

At the Saturday evening convention banquet on April 16, we recognized several officers who are retiring from their positions on the leadership team:

- Rosmarie Frederickson served four years as Educational Foundation Chair and AAUW Funds Co-Chair;
- Lina Germann served four years as Legal advocacy Fund Chair and AAUW Funds Co-Chair;
- Deanise Marta served one year as Secretary and six years as Roadrunner Editor;
- Virginia Spruiell- served seven years as Finance Chair and two years as Parliamentarian;
- Marion Isidoro served four years as Public Policy Co-Chair, two years as Co-President and four years as Senior Public Policy Advisor;
- Denise George served as Web Contact since AAUW-NM has had a Web page nine years!;
- Natalie Markin served six years as Program Vice President and two years as Diversity Chair
- Adrienne Dare served one year as Program Vice President and this year's Convention Chair.

Deanise, Natalie and Adrienne will continue to serve on the Leadership Team as the president or facilitator for their respective branches.

Your co-presidents wish to thank these devoted officers for their efforts on behalf of AAUW-NM. The military has a status known as IRR or "Individual Ready Reserve." It means that you can be "recalled" if your expertise is needed. So, we want to think that all of these officers are not really "retired," but just on IRR! We definitely appreciate the time and dedication they have given to benefit the women and girls of New Mexico.

Mary Sandford and Shelley Rossbach

# ...AND WELCOME TO "NEW" OFFICERS

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Karen Nelson (Carlsbad) and Sheila Portillo (soon-to-be-Albuquerque) - first two-year term

Finance Chair: Ruth Benjamins (Las Cruces) - second two-year term

Secretary: Joy Poole (Santa Fe) - completion of the remaining year of Karen Nelson's 2010—2012 term as secretary

Nina Thayer, Nominations Chair

# WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT CEDAW?

- CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world.
- CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women and girls.
- CEDAW is a practical blueprint for each country to achieve progress for women and girls. The American public strongly supports the principles and values of equality, fairness, education, and basic human rights. Almost all countries have ratified the CEDAW agreement 186 out of 193 countries have ratified. Only seven have not ratified, including the United States, Sudan, Somalia, Iran, and three small Pacific Island nations (Nauru, Palau, and Tonga). Ratifying the CEDAW treaty would continue America's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights.



At the Towne Hall meeting during the Spring convention, several members questioned Connie Hildebrand about AAUW's activities at the national level regarding CEDAW. She took our concerns to Seth Chase, AAUW Field Director. This is his response:

Dear Mary,

AAUW Director-at-Large Connie Hildebrand passed along some questions and comments from the AAUW of New Mexico convention to the AAUW staff. I am writing to respond to the question about CEDAW.

Just to be clear, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women was signed by President Carter for the United States in 1980. The U.S. Constitution requires that treaties signed by the president be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate (67 out of 100 Senators).

AAUW supports ratification of CEDAW. AAUW's support is written into the AAUW Public Policy Program, and it is specifically mentioned in the Principles for Action. AAUW has supported CEDAW since the Carter Administration. Unfortunately, it has been a treaty that has fallen low on the priority list with subsequent presidents. President Obama, however, has put it on the list of treaties he would like the Senate to ratify.

At the moment, the US government has attached a series of Reservations, Understandings and Declarations (RUDs) to the treaty that, in many ways, take the teeth out of the impact the treaty might have. AAUW has advocated a review of the RUDs. That is a long process. In the meantime, since it is a treaty, it requires 67 votes to pass – and virtually nothing gets 67 votes in the US Senate these days. The RUDs must be improved, but the Senate is in no rush to do them since its prospects for passage are difficult.

If you haven't heard much from AAUW about CEDAW, that is because we develop a targeted Federal Policy Agenda with each new Congress, based on the Public Policy Program but with more specific recommendations tailored to reflect the opportunities made possible by the political landscape and Congressional and Executive Branch priorities. At the moment, CEDAW does not have good prospects for ratification since the 67 senators in favor threshold is much higher than any legislation has received in the Senate this Congress.

The best prospects for ratifying CEDAW would be in changing the composition of the Senate. AAUW of New Mexico could play an active role in that since there will be a Senate election in New Mexico in 2012 by educating voters about CEDAW and other issues important to women at stake in the election...

Sincerely, Seth

Ratification of the CEDAW treaty may seem impossible, and it will take a major effort by its supporters to achieve this goal. President Obama is on record as supporting ratification. For additional information of how we can help this effort, please refer to the CEDAW website at <a href="https://www.cedaw2011.org">www.cedaw2011.org</a>.

Information regarding CEDAW obtained from the CEDAW website Letter from Seth Chase provided by Mary Sandford, Co-President

Shila Marek, International Interests Liaison

## LAS VEGAS BRANCH TO HOST SUMMER LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

The summer Leadership Team meeting will take place on Saturday, July 23 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.at the United World College in Montezuma, NM, just outside of Las Vegas. Team members will receive meeting details in their inboxes shortly.

For those requiring accommodations for Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23, the Plaza Hotel in the historic center of Las Vegas is the host hotel for this meeting. The room rates and reservation information are as follows:



Historic Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NM

#### **Guest Room Rates:**

Standard Queen **\$89.00**, Standard Double Queen **\$99.00**, Premium Single **\$119.00**,

Premium Double **\$129.00**, or a Suite **\$149.00**. Rates are exclusive of a 12.0625% occupancy tax. All rooms come with a complimentary hot breakfast each morning in the Landmark Grill restaurant. We also offer free high speed wireless internet throughout the hotel, complimentary guest computer located in the lobby, workout room, in-house Saloon/Bar, and coin operated guest laundry.

United World College Reception

# **Reservation Policies:**

Reservations may be made at the listed rates above until the **last available room is reserved**. To make your reservations and receive the group rate you will need to contact the Plaza Hotel Reservations Department at (800) 328-1882 or (505) 425-3591. This rate is <u>NOT</u> available on the internet. Please indicate the group

name located above when calling for reservations. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to the day of arrival.

Check-In Time: 3:00pm. Check-Out Time: 11:00am

Restaurant: Landmark Grill, open 7 days a week, serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Saloon: Byron T's Saloon, open 7 days a week at 12 noon. Full bar, (food available till 9:00pm).

**Hotel Parking:** The Plaza Park area is open parking. We recommend the Police Department parking lot located across the plaza from the hotel.

**Location:** Take I-25 North if coming from Santa Fe or Albuquerque area. Take I-25 South if coming from the Colorado or Raton area. Take exit 345 off I-25 in either direction, turn west off the exit (right from the north and left from the south). At Grand Avenue (four way stop), turn right, stay in left lane and make a left just past the museum on National Avenue. Proceed straight through the New Mexico Highlands University campus to the Old Town Plaza area. The hotel is located on the northwest corner of the Plaza area.



New Mexico AAUW The ROADRUNNER 6631 Vista Hermosa Las Cruces, NM 88007

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