



The ROADRUNNER

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Co-Presidents' Message

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The ROADRUNNER is a quarterly publication of AAUW-NM.
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Just a few weeks ago, many AAUW-NM members had a weekend to remember in Carlsbad. Once again we had a FABULOUS convention. From the dinner at Mary Sandford's beautiful home to the events at the Pecos River Conference Center to the "cruise" on the river and dinner at Carol Parr's beautiful home, everything went wonderfully. The weather was spectacular, the food was delicious, the speakers were great, and the fellowship could not have been better. We offer **MANY THANKS** to the Carlsbad Branch, and to Karen Nelson, Roxanne Lara, Mary Sandford and Carol Parr in particular. We were disappointed that the travel industry did not deliver national Public Policy Director Lisa Maatz to us in person as we had hoped, but we at least had a telephone conversation with her on Sunday morning (aren't cell phones, laptop computers and microphones wonderful?). I saw members of the Las Vegas Branch walking off with some of the beautiful tissue paper flowers that the Carlsbad Branch members had made...I think they were looking for ideas for next year's convention, which they will be hosting. The "upside" of Lisa Maatz not being able to join us in person is that we are now going to have her all to ourselves on Saturday, October 12 in Albuquerque. So mark your calendars now! This is also the last weekend of balloon fiesta www.balloonfiesta.com

We are also looking forward to our summer Leadership Team Meeting (LTM) in Santa Fe on July 20 from 9 AM to 3 PM. The details are on page 5 of this newsletter. We hope to see you then. This is also the weekend for the Grand Opening of the Santa Fe Museum Hill Botanical Garden. I toured the site while it was under construction and was very impressed. If you are interested in learning more, go to www.santafebotanicalgarden.org/events.

We want to thank our "retiring" board members who have served AAUW-NM with such distinction: Ruth Benjamins, Karen Nelson, and Dixie Trebbe. You are all special women who have given us your time and energy over the past years. **THANK YOU!!** We also want to THANK our continuing elected and appointed officers for your willingness to continue to serve. We will confirm new appointed officers at our July LTM. Finally we want to welcome our incoming elected officers: Mary Rita Chapman (Finance Chair), Ellen Cerreta (Co-Program Chair), and Sonya Berg and Jan Bray (Co-Public Policy Chairs).

We are looking forward to a productive new year! We hope that YOU can participate with us!

-- Shelley Rossbach and Karol Lyne, AAUW-NM Co-Presidents

Highlights of the 2013 Convention



Boat Ride on the Pecos



Carol Parr's Home

Attendees enjoyed an evening ride on the Pecos River. Afterwards a delicious dinner was served at Carol Parr's home.



Jayann Sepich

The keynote speaker was Jayann Sepich. Jayann's daughter, Katie was raped, strangled, her body set on fire, and abandoned at an old dumpsite in 2003. Two days later a couple of target shooters found her body. The attacker's blood and skin were found under her fingernails. In December of 2006, the New Mexico DNA database matched the unknown profile to Gabriel Avilla who had been convicted for several other crimes. Avilla confessed when shown the evidence. If New Mexico had required a DNA sample for Avilla's felony arrest in November of 2003, investigators might have solved Katie's murder sooner and kept Avilla from committing additional crimes. In January of 2006, "Katie's Law," which requires DNA for most felony arrests to be included in the CODIS database, was passed by the New Mexico Legislature.

Dave and Jayann Sepich have spent the years following Katie's death promoting DNA collection laws on both the state and federal level. Twenty-six states have laws related to collection of DNA. On January 10, 2013, President Obama signed the "Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act of 2012," which authorizes the Justice Department to carry out a grant program to assist States with the first-year costs associated with the implementation of a process to collect DNA from individuals who are arrested for or charged with certain criminal offenses under State law.

After the convention it was announced that the state of Nevada had passed a DNA test law. Jayann mentioned in her presentation that she had been working with people in Nevada to obtain passage of the law in their state legislature. The Supreme Court ruled on June 3 that criminal suspects can be subjected to a police DNA test after arrest, before trial and conviction.

For more information about the work of the Sepich family go to **DNASAVES.org**. After Katie's death, her parents set up a foundation to promote the passage of laws that would allow the collection of DNA evidence from any individual arrested for a felony. Donations are not tax

deductible as the organization lobbies for change in laws. At the convention a “bowl” was passed and AAUW members gave over \$300 to DNASAVES. AAUW-NM received a thank you for the contribution from Jayann.

The **Affordable Care Act** was the subject of a presentation by two very informed speakers. Dr. Charlotte Roybal is a principal in Policy Connections LLC of Santa Fe. Policy Connections, LLC, is a small minority and women-owned business in New Mexico that focuses on policy analysis, government relations, management relations, management consulting, and public facilitation training. Julio Munoz, MD, an internal medicine physician in Carlsbad is the medical director for a local hospice. He is currently the president of the American College of Physicians in New Mexico.

It was interesting that these two individuals were in agreement with each other about the issues around the Affordable Care Act. Both were supportive of the implementation of the legislation. The major problem for New Mexico will be the lack of health care professionals to provide the services of an expanded population that will have the ability to access to health care. Dr. Munoz emphasized the concept of preventative care that will be available, which will evidentially have a positive impact on health outcomes in New Mexico.

Grace Barker Wilson Award



Cas Mason and Helena Whyte

Helena Whyte, this year’s winner of the Grace Barker Wilson Award, was born in New Mexico and obtained a B.S. in chemistry and a M.A. in science education. As a science teacher she has inspired generations of students and worked with at risk students. She was an administrator of a grant from the Junior Advocacy Board. As a member of the technical staff at Los Alamos National Lab, she arranged programs to help female technicians to advance their pay grade. In addition she has worked tirelessly for many years at the state and local level for AAUW. It was a pleasure to present this award to Helena.

Caroline (Cas) Mason, Awards Committee Chair

Several people mentioned they would like to know about the life of Grace Barker Wilson. Cas Mason graciously wrote this article for the Roadrunner:

Grace Barker Wilson was born on June 25, 1889, in Moran, Texas. When she was six months old, she moved with her family to Sapello Valley, twenty-five miles north of Las Vegas, NM. That move was made in a homemade cradle, placed in the front of a covered wagon driven by her mother. Grace graduated from high school in Las Vegas and went on to college in Arizona. She received a bachelor's degree in music from Northwestern University and then another bachelor's in arts from Flagstaff Teachers' College. She later received an M.A. from the University of New Mexico.

Mrs. Wilson's teaching career in New Mexico began in 1925 when she moved to the Farmington area to teach at Kirtland High School. She became superintendent of the Central Consolidated Schools in 1930 and remained in that position for nineteen years.

Grace's interests were always New Mexico and poetry. During her years as a public school educator, she often wrote poems dedicated to her students. After her retirement in 1949, she never severed her ties with former students and continued to write poetry. Five books of her poetry have

been published; Winds Blow West in 1954, Miles to Go in 1960, Stuff of Dreams in 1964, The Horizons in 1968, and one other. She also taught a poetry workshop for the Farmington writers' Association.

Education "to enable success and contribute to society" was a priority in Mrs. Wilson's life. She was a founder of the Farmington Public Library and often spoke on historical and philosophical subjects. For the U.S. bicentennial celebration (when she was 87), she gave twenty-two presentations on patriotism to schools and various organizations. At age 98, the AAUW Farmington Branch sponsored six of her lectures on "Know Your New Mexico," given at the public library. One friend described her as a "walking encyclopedia."

Grace Wilson was noted for her charisma and personality. She had a wonderful sense of humor and loved watching sports on television. She was always active in public affairs. She was the first living educator and the first woman to be named to the New Mexico Education Hall of Fame in 1956. In 1985, the Kirtland School District honored her by giving an elementary school her name; the first living New Mexican to be so honored during their lifetime. Grace was a member of AAUW (having served as Division Historian), of Delta Kappa Gamma, of the New Mexico Education Association, the Retired Teachers' Association, and the Farmington Study Club. The Study Club is a group of women who have worked throughout this century to bring enlightenment to the children and adults of a farming community.

Grace Barker Wilson, educator, poet, and community volunteer, died at the age of 99 on February 4, 1989 in Aztec, NM. She touched many lives and was a source of inspiration to all who knew her.

Nominations Committee Report

At the Spring Convention in Carlsbad, the Nominations Committee presented a full slate of officers for election. All the candidates were elected and they were installed at the Saturday evening banquet. The newly elected AAUW-NM officers are:

Co-Vice Presidents Program: Sheila Portillo (Albuquerque and also Nevada) and Ellen Cerreta (Santa Fe); Finance Officer: Mary Rita Chapman (Las Cruces); AAUW Funds Chair: Mary Tyler Browne (West Mesa) and Co-Chairs Public Policy: Jan Bray (Albuquerque) and Sonya Berg (Las Vegas).

The Nominations Committee was composed of Mary Sandford (Chair), Deanise Marta and Pam Daves. We would like to thank Co-President Karyl Lyne for her assistance as well. Thank you to the new officers for volunteering to advance the AAUW mission for women and girls in New Mexico!

Mary Sandford - Nominations Committee Chair

Deanise Marta and Pam Daves - Committee Members

Ingenious Ideas Awards for 2013

The goal of the Marjorie Bell Chambers Ingenious Ideas Awards is to give credit to branches that have implemented inventive projects in order to give ideas to other branches about projects they may choose to select. Each year branches can enter the competition for this award by submitting information about a branch project that supports the mission of AAUW.

The following branches were announced at Convention as winners of 2013 MBC Ingenious Ideas Awards:

Los Alamos Branch Holiday Community Outreach Program to assist families and women in need in Northern New Mexico.

Santa Fe Branch Community outreach to the Esperanza Shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Las Cruces Branch Purchased a copy of the *Invisible War* and arranged having the film shown at local theaters.

Branch Project Grants

AAUW-NM has budgeted \$600 for the 2013-14 Branch Project Grants. A branch may apply for an amount *UP TO* \$200 to assist in accomplishing a goal or promoting a program that advances the mission of AAUW. The only requirement for the grant is that it must have an outreach, mentoring or educational component. The committee will give special consideration to branches that have not received a grant and to new project ideas; however, all applications are definitely eligible. There is no application form. Instructions for applying are in the Policies and Procedures, Article V, section F. The Policies and Procedures are on the www.aauw-nm.org web site under "Governance and Forms."

Applications are due to Mary Sandford by October 1st and the grants will be awarded at the Fall Workshop. As you do your yearly planning over the summer, please consider the availability of the Branch Project Grants!

Mary Sandford-Branch Project Grants Chair

Enid Tidwell and Phoebe Pierce – Committee Members

AAUW Funds Report 2012

Congratulations to the branches who gave the most to AAUW Funds. Certificates were awarded at convention. The branches giving the most to all funds were: Las Cruces \$2,758, Los Alamos \$2,682 and Santa Fe \$2,430. Those giving the most to the Legal Advocacy Fund: Las Cruces \$595, Santa Fe \$550, Las Vegas \$400. Branches giving the most per capita were Los Alamos \$40.64, Las Vegas \$28.45, Santa Fe \$27.30. The average per capita in New Mexico was \$22.64.

AAUW FUNDS REPORT 1st Quarter 2013+ : Carlsbad \$108, Las Cruces \$385, Las Vegas \$400, Los Alamos \$765 Santa Fe \$186.50. Santa Fe sent an additional \$450 to National in May to bring their total giving thus far to \$636.50 Total given so far: \$2,294.50! Thanks to all of you...we're off to a good start in 2013.

Be sure to check online to see the many things that National does with our dollars: research, legal advocacy, scholarships, National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), and more. Be proud of what we do.

Mary Tyler Browne-AAUW Funds Chair

**Summer Leadership Team Meeting
Saturday, July 20 from 9 AM to 3 PM**

LOCATION: First Christian Church of Santa Fe, 645 Webber Street (near the New Mexico Capitol).

PARKING: Church parking lot to the north of the church & parsonage or school parking lot directly across Webber Street

The Santa Fe Branch offers B&B for Friday night, July 19th for a donation of \$30 to AAUW-Funds. Contact Enid Tidwell, 505-820-1848 or etidwell01@comcast.net

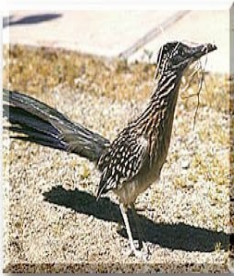
LUNCH: There will be a catered lunch, chicken or veggie wrap, chips, fruit and cookie. The cost will be \$12. Attendees may pay in advance or on the 20th. Attendees may bring a sack lunch or a frozen meal to be heated in the microwave. Coffee, iced tea, juice, and water will be available all day.

RSVP by July 16th to Nancy Scheer, 505-473-9897 or nscheer1226@msn.com, for lunch.

Indicate that you want a chicken wrap or a veggie wrap.

DIRECTIONS: Coming from the east or south take the St. Francis Drive exit from I-25. Go north on St. Francis to Paseo de Peralta (8th traffic light) and turn right. Follow Paseo de Peralta to Webber Street and turn right. Webber Street will be almost directly across from the Capitol; a very narrow street. The church & parking lot are on the left (East) side, two blocks south on Webber Street.

Coming from the **north** on US 285 stay on St. Francis Drive until reaching the 2nd intersection with Paseo de Peralta(5th traffic light) and turn left. Follow the same directions given above to continue to the church. It is necessary to use the south intersection of St. Francis Drive and Paseo de Peralta due to street construction on the north section of Paseo de Peralta. One may take the Old Pecos Trail exit from I-25 and use a GPS to find the church. There will be a sign at the church to indicate the entrance to use.



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