



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.

LILLY LEDBETTER TO ADDRESS STATE CONVENTION

Because of the efforts of co-president Nina Thayer, Lilly Ledbetter will be the guest speaker on Friday afternoon, April 24, at the state convention in Los Alamos (see related story on page 4).

Lilly Ledbetter is the face of pay equity. She worked for nearly two decades at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Gadsden, Alabama. Despite receiving top performance awards, Ledbetter discovered that she had been paid significantly less than male co-workers with the same job. After her November 1998 retirement, she filed suit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and was awarded back pay and other remedies in a jury trial. In 2007, however, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that ruling and 40 years of EEOC precedent in a



Lilly Ledbetter

5-4 decision that significantly narrowed the interpretation of pay equity laws. The justices ruled that employees could only file a wage discrimination complaint within 180 days of the original pay decision, leaving women, minorities, and others in Ledbetter's situation with no recourse.

In January, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act became the first bill that President Obama signed into law. AAUW helped to lead the coalition of women's rights, labor, and civil rights groups who worked for almost two years to get the bill passed. The law restores the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allows employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

A nationally recognized pay equity advocate, Ledbetter has testified several times before Congress and spoke at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. She has also addressed AAUW state conventions in New York and Alabama. Prior to her tenure at Goodyear, Ledbetter worked as a district manager for H&R Block and as an assistant financial aid director at Jacksonville State University.

2009 INGENIOUS IDEAS AWARD

Branch recognition couldn't be easier! Branches are encouraged to submit their newest and best programming, membership, or administrative successes to our Outreach Coordinator, Beverly Stiles. There is no formal application form. All that is needed is the name of the branch, a one-paragraph description of the project, idea, or event, and the name of a branch contact person. Please send this information to Beverly Stiles (stilesb801@aol.com) on or before April 1, 2009. The AAUW-NM Ingenious Ideas Awards, named for our former New Mexico and Association President Marjorie Bell Chambers, will be awarded at the banquet on April 25 during our convention in Los Alamos.

BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS

Change, it's on everyone's lips and is "blowin' in the wind." Political change, economic change, and change to AAUW. Let's first discuss what already has changed for AAUW. In the past three years, AAUW has become financially stable and has focused on invigorating and streamlining its operation. Last year we embraced a new mission statement and this year we have a new motto, "Breaking Through Barriers." This motto is more active than our previous motto, "Equity is Still An Issue" (although this is still true). AAUW is becoming an active force in the change we want to see and a proactive motto conveys this message.

We all can name the barriers we want broken for women and girls. Barriers to pay equity continued to fall with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act by the newly elected House in their first week at work. The first bill signed by our new president and our Association's highest legislative priority was the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. However, as of this writing, the Fair Pay Act languishes in the Senate. We must challenge the barriers to equal participation in the legislative and judicial process, equal opportunities for health care, insurance, unbiased education, the corporate glass ceiling, scholarships, tenure-level jobs on campus, and harassment on campus and at work. I know each of you can think of a barrier to women and girls' equal participation that you want to see broken. Breaking these barriers is AAUW's promise to its members.

Other changes are coming to AAUW (see the article by our Association presidents, Ruth Sweetser and Barbara O'Connor, on page 3). Both the largest and the smallest changes to our venerable Association are the changes to the bylaws that will be submitted to the membership for decision at the convention this June in St. Louis; large, because the changes to the Association structure are broad and comprehensive; small, because the changes most members and branches will experience are transparent. Your co-presidents have registered for this convention and we will represent you in St. Louis. In our next message we will discuss in more depth the new bylaws and how they will affect members, branches, states, and our Association. Change is here and we must take full advantage. We can break through the barriers!

Please attend our state convention, where Lilly Ledbetter will discuss pay equity, and Barbara O'Connor will explain and answer questions about the new bylaws. The early registration fee of \$35, including lunch, is a real bargain!

*Your partners in change,
Mary Sandford and Nina Thayer, Co-Presidents*

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

Elections for the 2009-2011 AAUW-NM term will be held at the state convention in Los Alamos. Nominees are:

Legal Advocacy Fund Chair	Lina Germann	Santa Fe
Newsletter Editor	Deanise Marta	Las Cruces
Public Policy Coordinator	Dixie Trebbe	Albuquerque
Outreach Coordinator	Pam Daves	Las Vegas
Finance Chair	Ruth Benjamins	Las Cruces



The nominating team is still seeking someone from the Grant County branch, Carlsbad branch, or Las Cruces branch who is interested in public policy and would be willing to represent the southern portion of New Mexico.

No one stepped forward to fill the state program vice president position. So for the 2009-2010 year, AAUW-NM will take an alternate approach. Carlsbad will host the 2009 Fall Workshop. With the consent of their branch president, Karen Nelson, and other branch members, the branch will coordinate the programming for this gathering. Ted Cooley, AAUW-Albuquerque Co-President, is pursuing an international activity with IFUW members in Chihuahua, Mexico. The Leadership Team passed a motion that the 2010 AAUW-NM state convention coordinate its activities around this event. Diane Scholfield, AAUW-Albuquerque Co-President, and other branch members, agreed that the branch would manage program details for the convention. Louise Drlik of the nominating team has offered her services as state program consultant.

I would like to thank the members of the nominating team, Marilyn Dunn, Albuquerque, and Louise Drlik, Las Vegas, for their help, hard work, and diligence in assisting me in completing the slate of nominees. We encourage all members to recognize that serving AAUW-NM is an opportunity to develop and further leadership skills. Our state accomplishes everything it does because of its mission-driven and dedicated member-leaders!

Carol Ann Council, Nominations Chair

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

AAUW IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Ruth Sweetser

Will 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

First, we have to work together and think together as an entire community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning branch activities, or even personal activities, ask "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" In other words, how am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls?

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, play in a bridge tournament that benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation, host a guest speaker on pay equity at a branch meeting, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you're taking a step to break through barriers. Just asking yourself that question brings a new awareness to and appreciation of our work that is vital to making it succeed—and will help you focus as your branch plans its mission-based programming. When you take that planning up a notch—asking how can my branch join with as many other branches and members as possible to apply our collective influence to a breakthrough—barriers, watch out!

Second, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26–28, in St. Louis. There you'll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see with your own eyes what the future holds for our organization. You'll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and, of course, you'll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections.

Third, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Yes, organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. If we are unable or unwilling to see the big picture of AAUW and its needs in 2009 and beyond, we risk the future of the entire organization. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization (501(c)(3) with a very small 501(c)(4) subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions.

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of [briefings](#) that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include the [Programs in a Box](#), which provide how-to's for mission-based programming; the [Membership Pilot Program](#), which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the [Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Pilot Program](#), which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants. Our new method of submitting a leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are re-vamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW. At the AAUW state spring meetings, board members and other leaders—champions—will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions.

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.



Barbara O'Connor

Ruth Z. Sweetser, AAUW Association President
Barbara L. O'Connor, AAUW Educational Foundation President



AAUW-NM Spring Convention THINK GREEN - THINK SMART Los Alamos, April 24-26, 2009

The Los Alamos Branch of AAUW-NM cordially invites you to join us for the 2009 Spring Convention. The theme for this convention revolves around the environment. In addition, we have scheduled two nationally recognized leaders:

Lilly Ledbetter, speaking on Friday afternoon, will discuss issues of pay equity. Her talk is being co-sponsored by the University of New Mexico-Los Alamos and The Southwest Women's Law Center. Ms. Ledbetter is the namesake of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the first bill signed by President Obama in January. This historic legislation restored the long-standing interpretation of civil rights laws and EEOC policies that allows employees to challenge any discriminatory paycheck they receive.

Barbara O'Connor, president of the AAUW Educational Foundation, speaking on Saturday, will discuss the future of AAUW as reflected in the new bylaws. These bylaws were written over the past year and brought forward by the AAUW and AAUW-EF boards to be discussed and voted on at the Association convention in June. These changes will bring a streamlining of AAUW's structure and administration and a radical new equity by opening membership to every person who supports the AAUW mission. We expect an important and spirited discussion.

We have planned a wonderful evening of drama featuring *Bye Bye Birdie*, presented by the Los Alamos High School drama club, on Friday evening at 7 pm. On Saturday evening, we will celebrate our successes with a delicious banquet at our most popular local restaurant, Central Avenue Grill. At this time, the Leadership Team will present individual awards, recognize outstanding branches, and install new officers. There will be time to visit with long-time friends and meet enthusiastic new members. It is a time to recharge, inform, and invigorate ourselves and learn how to let our mission come alive!

ACCOMODATIONS

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Make reservations at the Best Western Hilltop House, Los Alamos, at (505) 662-2441 or (800) 462-0936 by April 9, 2009. Mention the AAUW Group Block to take advantage of our special rate, \$89.95 per night including tax and a hot breakfast buffet. Reservations made on-line or through a travel agency will not receive this special rate. Each room has two queen-sized beds or 1 king-sized bed, a refrigerator, and a microwave oven. There is a bar and snack shop on the premises, an indoor swimming pool, and exercise facilities. After April 9, 2009, any unclaimed rooms will be released. Check-in time is 2 pm and check-out time is 12 noon. See the website at: www.bwhilltop.com.

BED & BREAKFAST will be provided by Los Alamos branch members for a \$25 contribution to the Educational Foundation-Corrine Wolfe Fund or Legal Advocacy Fund. Contact: **Mona Wecksung**, 131 El Corto, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 505-662-7084, wecksung2005@msn.com.

DIRECTIONS

TO LOS ALAMOS: Take I-25 to Santa Fe and exit at St. Francis Drive. Drive north on St Francis Drive, which becomes US-285/84-N. Travel about 12.4 miles and take the NM-502 W. exit for Los Alamos, then turn slightly left onto NM-502W. Drive 15 miles up the hill to Los Alamos. Pass the airport on your right and a short distance further there is a fork in the road. Stay left, which is Trinity Drive, and the Best Western Hilltop is immediately on your right at 400 Trinity Drive.

TO UNM-LA CAMPUS FROM THE BEST WESTERN HILLTOP HOUSE: Drive west on Trinity Drive. At the fourth traffic light turn right onto Diamond Drive. Pass the first traffic light at Diamond and Central. Los Alamos High School and the Duane Smith Auditorium are on the right. Across from the high school turn left onto University Drive. This leads to the campus. There is limited parking that involves a flight of steps or elevator to reach the campus. If the steps are a problem, take the first left turn and follow the road around to the larger parking lot in back.

TO BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH FROM THE BEST WESTERN HILLTOP HOUSE: Drive west on Trinity Drive. At the fourth traffic light turn right onto Diamond Drive. Pass two traffic lights, the second has a Mobil station on the left. About 0.4 mile past the gas station turn left onto Urban. Pass 41st through 44th Streets and turn right onto North Road. Pass Mountain Elementary School and Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be on your right. Park in the lot and enter on the lower level.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

(Check your registration packet for any schedule changes)

Friday, April 24

12:00-4:00 Registration at UNM-LA, 400 University Drive

12:30 Leadership Team Meeting at UNM-LA Campus, Building 2. Note: No lunch will be provided. See list of restaurants sent with registration packet.

4:00 **Lilly Ledbetter** on pay equity, same location

5:00 Registration at the Best Western Hilltop House, 400 Trinity Drive

5:30 Dinner on your own. We will organize groups in the hotel lobby.

7:00 *Bye-Bye Birdie*, presented by the Los Alamos High School drama club, at the Duane Smith Auditorium on the high school campus, 1300 Diamond Drive

Saturday, April 25

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2390 North Road

8:40 Welcome by AAUW officers and **Mike Wheeler**, chair of the Los Alamos County Council

9:00 Business Session I

9:15 Keynote speaker, **Dr. Chick Keller**, "Global Warming: What It Is and What You Can Do About It"

10:15 Break

10:30 **Dr. John Bartlit**, "The Public Forum Is An Ecosystem"

11:30 Gathering of delegates to the AAUW Convention in St. Louis

11:45 **Lunch** catered by Kama Burger, (included in registration fee)

12:45 **Barbara O' Connor**, AAUW-EF President

2:15 Concurrent Workshops. Choose one:

Workshop 1) **Helena Whyte**, "Green Chemistry in the Home"

Workshop 2) **Matt Dickens**, "Tips To Make Your Home Greener"

3:15 Break

3:30 Business Session II and Quilt Raffle

6:30 Banquet, Entertainment, and Awards at the Central Avenue Grill, 1789 Central Ave

Sunday April 26 Gary & Nina Thayer's home, 1707 Solana.

9 am Light breakfast for those not staying at the Best Western Hilltop

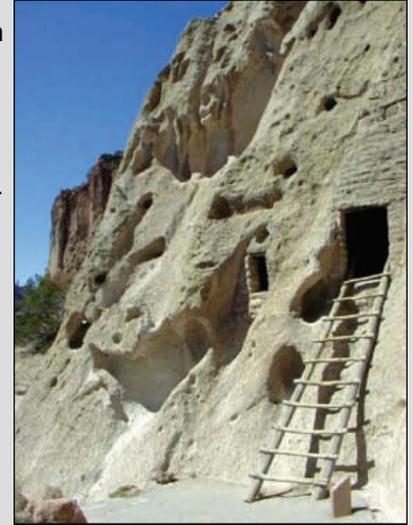
10 am Towne Hall Meeting with Barbara O'Connor and continuation of Leadership Team Meeting, if necessary

*Biographical information on Barbara O'Connor appears on page 4;
biographical information on our other Saturday speakers appears on page 6.
The **Convention Registration Form** appears on page 12.*

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

STATE CONVENTION SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Chick Keller** received a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA and then attended Penn State University where he earned a B.S. in Math and Physics. He received a Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Indiana University. He retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in 2001 as the director of the Institute for Geophysics & Planetary Physics, where he was engaged in funding research collaborations in geophysical and planetary computer modeling between LANL staff and university faculty and students.
- **Dr. John Bartlit** is the State Chair of New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water and has been a volunteer environmental advocate in New Mexico since 1969. He received a bachelor's degree from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Yale University. His interests include industrial pollution sources and forums to build better approaches to pollution problems. He retired from LANL in 1993 after 32 years in engineering research.
- **Helena Whyte** has a B.S. in Chemistry and an M.A. in Science Education from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech). She retired as a staff member at LANL in 2008 after 29 years as a mentor, team leader, chemical safety officer, producer of award winning training videos, and author/co-author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Ms. Whyte is the current facilitator of the AAUW-Los Alamos branch, and current membership vice president of AAUW-NM.
- **Matt Dickens** has a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in History from the University of New Mexico. He was the undergraduate choice for the UNM Board of Regents. He has 10 years of conservation experience as a contractor to the cities of Albuquerque, Phoenix, Santa Fe, Durango and Belen. He currently is employed by the Los Alamos County Utility Department.



The Cliff House at Bandelier National Monument, outside of Los Alamos.

THANK YOU SANTA FE



The Leadership Team in action

The Leadership Team and everyone who attended the Legislative Day activities appreciated the wonderful location, food, and accommodations provided by the Santa Fe branch. A very special thank you goes to Co-Presidents Shelley Ross-

bach and Sandra Bradley and their team, including Riette Mugleston, who coordinated the potluck appetizers. We are indebted to Flossie Brown for the continued use of the community room and kitchen at Santa Fe Skies RV Park. We all had a congenial time and learned so much from our speakers: Representative Jeannette Wallace; Martha Burk, the governor's senior advisor for women's issues; and Kristine Fisher from Think New Mexico. The speakers and Legislative Day activities were arranged and capably lead by state officers Dixie Trebbe, Dolores Halls, and Jean Bahr. The excellent cooks of the Santa Fe branch truly outdid themselves by providing such a delicious dinner! Many thanks to everyone who contributed to a productive weekend.

Mary and Nina, Co-Presidents

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

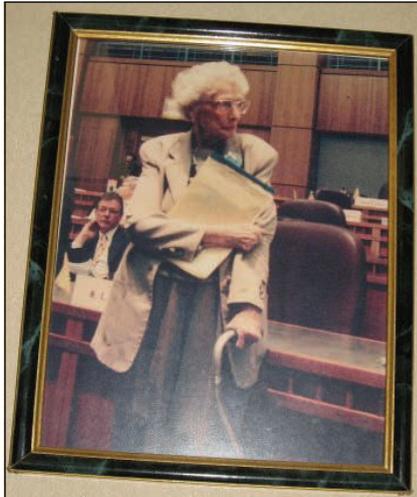
There is a little over a month left to buy tickets for a chance to win the beautiful, handmade, queen-sized quilt donated by the New Mexico Quilters Association. All ticket proceeds will benefit the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund. The ticket price is \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00. This is a one-of-a-kind piece of fabric art suitable for hanging. Tickets are available from each branch, and will also be sold at the state convention up to the time of the drawing on Saturday, April 25. Please help EF and LAF and "take a chance" on this quilt!



LAF chair Lina Germann (l) and EF chair Rosmarie Frederickson hold the donated quilt.

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CORRINE WOLFE FUND EXCEEDS 2008 GOAL



This photo of Corrine Wolfe hangs in the "Corrine Wolfe Lobby" in the state capitol building, Santa Fe, NM.

In 2008, AAUW-NM set a goal to reach \$80,000 in the Corrine Wolfe International Endowment by year's end. We achieved that goal and more. As of December 31, 2008, the fund stood at \$83,827.49, a sizeable jump from the \$75,933.36 reported in October, 2008.

With the help of our co-presidents, I was able to contact many other state Educational Foundation chairs regarding the endowment. We received two contributions from Colorado in thanks for AAUW-NM's contribution to their named grant several years ago. We also received a \$1000 contribution from Indiana. And we raised approximately \$300 from members-at-large whom I contacted last year. Since January 2009, we have received at least \$150 in contributions. It seems feasible that we can raise the additional \$16,000 to complete the \$100,000 pledge for the Corrine Wolfe International Endowment Fund by 2010.

In 2008, AAUW-NM contributed a total of \$15,297.89 to all AAUW EF funds. We designated the greatest amount, \$11,507.89, for the Corrine Wolfe Endowment, followed by \$2,500 for the Eleanor Jenkins Fund. Additional contributions were \$415 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, and \$685 of unrestricted contributions. A **big thank you** to everyone who made this phenomenal progress possible.

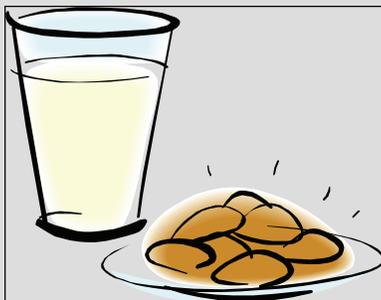
Rosmarie Fredrickson, EF Chair

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND HAS RECORD FUNDRAISING YEAR

The numbers are in and I am excited to report that in 2008, AAUW-NM and all of its branches contributed \$3,539.80 to LAF. This included an unexpected individual gift of \$1,000. Many thanks to that individual and to everyone else who supports LAF in its struggle to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

The Quilt raffle to benefit both EF and LAF continues until the state convention in April. I was able to sell \$30 worth of tickets to my mother-in-law who was visiting from Illinois. She was very impressed by the quality of the quilt. If you are interested in buying tickets, contact me, Rosmarie Frederickson, or your branch EF or LAF chair. The drawing will take place at the convention in Los Alamos. You need not be present to win.

Those who attended the dinner after the Leadership Team meeting in Santa Fe gave my super easy butter cookies rave reviews. I've included the recipe below. If you enjoy the cookies, please consider making a donation to LAF, which is super easy to do. Simply write a check payable to AAUW-EF, write "LAF #3999" on the Memo line, and write your branch name at the top of the check for your branch to receive credit. Mail the check to me (address below) or give it to your branch EF or LAF chair. Even easier—make an online contribution at www.aauw.org.



Super Easy Butter Cookies

1 (8 oz) package cream cheese (Philadelphia)

1 egg

2 oz butter (half a stick)

1 box of yellow cake mix

Cream the cream cheese, egg, and butter. Add the cake mix to make a very thick batter. Make round spoonfuls of batter (about half a dollar size) and roll in sugar.

Place on cookie sheets about two inches apart. Bake at 375 degrees for 9-11 minutes until slightly brown on the edges. Enjoy!

Lina Germann, LAF Chair
22 Los Prados, Santa Fe, NM 87506

UPDATE ON MEMBERSHIP

According to the Association's Membership Database, AAUW-NM has 501 current members, although there is always a slight discrepancy between Association numbers and the state figures due to the additional time necessary for Association to update its records. This number reflects an additional nine members over the 2008 total, but is still lower than our 2007 total. Congratulations to Carlsbad, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe for double digit membership increases.

We now have four New Mexico college and university partners eligible for free undergraduate student affiliate memberships. These institutions are:

- Eastern New Mexico University
- New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology
- University of New Mexico—Los Alamos
- Western New Mexico University



I will be contacting the branch membership vice presidents after March 15 for the names of each branch's top recruiters for the year. We will recognize the branches with the greatest percentage increase in membership, and the top recruiters, at the state convention in April. Consider honoring your top recruiters at the branch level too!

A reminder to all branch membership vice presidents: contact your new members to ensure they are receiving their electronic mailings and/or regular mail from AAUW and your branch. Don't let new members feel unconnected. Membership retention is also necessary for viable branches.

The AAUW helpline has a new name—CONNECT2AAUW. You now can call 800-326-2289 or e-mail connect@aauw.org 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Their goal is to respond within 48 business hours. You can call between 10 AM and 5 PM (EST), Monday through Friday. Use CONNECT2AAUW to update your member record, acknowledge new branch members and members-at-large with welcome packets, acknowledge honorary life members with letters and certificates, enroll dual members, follow-up on all membership processing issues, mail renewal notices to college and university partners, deliver the bimonthly membership vice president's electronic newsletter, *Membership Matters*, and fulfill your requests for brochures.

For those members who check the box on the membership form reading: "___ Occasionally AAUW's membership list is made available to carefully screened companies or organizations. Check here if you do not want your name included," there is no way for branch officers to record this information on the AAUW database. According to AAUW, the only way for a member to remove his or her name from these shared lists is to contact CONNECT2AAUW.

Helena Whyte, Membership Vice-President

WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR EQUAL PAY DAY?

As stated on the AAUW website, "To match men's earnings for 2008, women must work from January 2008 through April, 2009—an extra four months. In recognition of this inequity, Equal Pay Day will be celebrated on April 28, 2009." AAUW has numerous resources to help members plan their celebrations. You can download AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit at www.aauw.org for some excellent ideas.

The January 18 edition of Parade Magazine contained an enlightening article regarding pay equity, which featured remarks by Lisa Maatz, AAUW's director of public policy. It also stated that "Men start their careers with a slight earnings edge over women. The salary difference eventually mushrooms to average more than \$20,000 a year."

In 2007, the ratio of women's and men's median earnings reached almost 78 cents on the dollar, up from under 77 cents in 2006. Although this is the narrowest the wage gap has ever been, increases of one cent per year will guarantee that pay equity will not occur until the year 2031.



What can we do? We can encourage our congressional representatives to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would force employers to justify pay differences and increase penalties for discrimination. This legislation, in conjunction with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, would accelerate the achievement of economic equality, and help us reach a time when equity is no longer an issue.

Deanise Marta, Roadrunner Editor

BRANCH NEWS

Las Cruces – Deanise Marta, President

We began our program year in September with a talk by Dr. Jo Tice Bloom, retired New Mexico State University (NMSU) history professor, AAUW life member, and member of the Las Cruces branch. She introduced us to Doña Tules, the “first woman entrepreneur in New Mexico.” Tules was the first female proprietor of a gambling salon in Santa Fe in the mid-1800’s, before New Mexico became a United States territory. She was from the peon class, and her rise to wealth and fame was remarkable for the time. Her story is colorfully told in the novel *The Wind Leaves No Shadow* by Ruth Laughlin.

Our October program featured AAUW-Albuquerque member and pay equity specialist Carolyn Glen Kaye and NMSU Library Dean Elizabeth Titus. Ms. Kaye discussed the general issues surrounding pay equity in our state and nation, and Dr. Titus discussed pay equity from the academic and institutional perspective. It was highly informative and eye-opening for our members. November found us at NMSU for a panel discussion by four female foreign students. The students came from Egypt, Puerto Rico, Kenya, and Argentina. They compared the differences in opportunities for women, in education and other aspects of society, between their home countries and the United States. The student’s ages ranged from undergraduate sophomore to married graduate student with grown children. Their comments and perspectives were fascinating.

On a frigid Saturday morning in early December, we held our first ever “Mixed Media” sale to benefit our Girls Can Career Conference. We had sorted the books, games, CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes the day before, and set up tables at the Las Cruces Farmer’s Market before the market opened at 8 am. We had over 1,000 items, all donated by branch members, and sold roughly half of them, for a profit of \$439. We donated the remaining items to the Mesilla Cultural Center. All sales of merchandize at the center benefit the Border Book Festival and other educational and artistic programs in our border region.

Although we normally collect toys for a local charity at our Holiday luncheon, we decided to change perspectives this year and instead collected personal care items, socks, and underwear for La Casa, our local domestic violence shelter. Over 60 members attended the luncheon, and those who could not attend donated items at other AAUW activities. The generosity of our membership netted four full grocery carts of items, and the center was overjoyed to receive them. Unfortunately, there is always a need.

In January we discovered our “True Colors.” Dr. Fair Hash led us through a number of fun exercises that helped us discover our “real” personalities, represented by the colors orange, green, blue, or yellow. We all discovered new things about ourselves and our sister members. February found us at the Preston Contemporary Art Gallery for a presentation by Paul Schranz, gallery director, on understanding contemporary art. We all drew our interpretation of the taste of a lemon! We then toured a very fascinating exhibit at this wonderful addition to the Las Cruces art’s community.

March means Girls Can!! The twelfth annual career conference for sixth grade girls featured 22 presenters in fields ranging from cosmetology to electrical engineering, 237 girls, 50+ parents, assorted teachers and counselors, and a lot of harried AAUW members. The conference was well-received as always and we are already talking about next year.

In April we will visit the new Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park on the Rio Grande in the village of Mesilla. We will have a ranger-led discussion and tour, and discover what type of work is being done to preserve this valuable part of nature, and what we all can do to help. We will follow with lunch and a discussion of the Association bylaws changes.

For our final program in May, we will host Diane Valdez Washington, reporter for the El Paso Times and author of many books about the unsolved murders of women in Juarez. She will talk to us about the femicides, and her experiences researching and reporting about these crimes. At this time, Ms. Washington is a “marked” woman who cannot cross the border. At our annual summer pot-luck in June, we will approve the next year’s budget, elect new officers, and then dispense with business and enjoy the food and company.

Las Cruces currently has 107 members. We have added 24 new members since July 2008. This is due to the recruiting efforts of all of our members, the phenomenal energy of our membership vice-presidents, Rita Stopa and Juliet Williams, and the quality of our programs, coordinated by program vice-presidents Shirley Armstrong and Susan Grigaliunas. I’m proud to be a part of this fabulous team!

MORE BRANCH NEWS

Los Alamos – Helena Whyte, Facilitator

The Los Alamos kick-off event in September featured Maybel Arrellano, the recipient of the AAUW Mana Del Norte Scholarship.

Our main focus for the fall was on “Get Out the Vote” activities. The Los Alamos League of Women Voters and AAUW-Los Alamos were co-sponsors of two candidate forums. The September forum focused on the three 3rd District Congressional candidates. Helena Whyte moderated the October forum, which focused on the uncontested and County races. The Los Alamos League of Women Voters and AAUW-Los Alamos also co-sponsored the publication of the voter guide available at www.lwvlosalamos.org. At our November general meeting, rotarians Paul and Rosmarie Frederickson presented a discussion on their recent water projects in Guatemala.

In January, the Los Alamos League of Women Voters and our branch co-sponsored a Los Alamos bond issue debate, and a school board and UNM – LA advisory board candidates forum. The school bond passed. Helena Whyte moderated the Annual Legislative Preview, also in January and again co-sponsored by the League and AAUW. On January 21, our branch presented a *Let's Read Math* in-service workshop (Measuring Penny and Picture Pie) to Los Alamos public school elementary and middle school teachers.

Our third international women's program featured Dr. Lee Liu, who presented our February program on women in China. (The branch has submitted this annual *Women's Issues Around the Globe* event for the Association Taste of Success competition.) The branch provided a *Let's Read Math* table at Discover E (Engineering) night on February 18. Engineering and scientific professionals from local technical societies and businesses provided interactive demonstrations for northern New Mexico K-12 students. Participants created art using fractions of circles and played the eighths game (Picture Pie).

Julia Dimichalis presented our March program, *Promoting Democracy in North Africa: Three Years of Assisting Parliament to Fulfill its Constitutional Mandate*. Julia has worked for three years helping Morocco with its constitution. She has also worked with Iraq and Yugoslavia. On April 2, our branch will co-sponsor the Expanding Your Horizons workshop. The annual Membership Tea in May will feature the AAUW-NM co-presidents Nina Thayer and Mary Sandford. To begin the 2010 program year, the branch will present a *Let's Read Math* workshop picture pie for the Los Alamos Mesa Public Library Family Night on July 13.

Please join us at the annual state convention, *Think Green – Think Smart*, April 24-26, 2009!

Santa Fe – Sandra Bradley and Shelley Rossbach, Co-Presidents

The Santa Fe branch now has over 70 members. We are pleased to have many new members join us.

In October we celebrated the Branch's 75th birthday with a gala birthday party, complete with games, prizes, cake and ice cream. Billie Schaumberg, an AAUW member for many years, spoke to us about AAUW in the 60' and 70's. The party was also a fundraising event for our UNM Scholarship Fund. We raised close to \$1000 for the fund.

The November meeting featured Cheryl Rofer, immediate past president of the Los Alamos Committee on Arms Control and International Security. She spoke to a large group about nuclear nonproliferation issues.

In December, we gathered for a pre-concert lunch at La Fonda Hotel, and then attended a Christmas concert presented by the Santa Fe Community Orchestra.

In January, we met on a Saturday at the Wheelwright Museum for a docent-led tour of the current exhibit. We then gathered for lunch at the Museum Hill Café. After lunch, Bobby Gutierrez, Superintendent of the Santa Fe Public Schools, spoke to us about the uses for the bond issue that is on the ballot in the school election. After hearing Bobby speak, the Board decided to write a letter of support for the bond issue. The letter appeared in the January 29 issue of the Santa Fe New Mexican.

The branch worked with the League of Women Voters to sponsor a School Board Forum for the candidates who were running for the School Board. The Forum was held on January 29. About 80 people attended the Forum. The candidates were very pleased with the Forum saying that it was one of the most successful ones they had attended.



MEET US IN ST. LOUIS!

AAUW-MO and the Local Arrangements Committee in St. Louis are hard at work planning the details of hosting the 2009 AAUW National Convention at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel, June 26-28, 2009. This historic convention, themed “BREAKING through BARRIERS,” will discuss and vote on issues related to membership requirements, dues payments, public policy issues, and much more. The results will have a momentous impact on who and what AAUW is to be in the coming years. You don’t want to miss it! Check out the AAUW website for full details on the issues, the convention, and things to do in St. Louis: www.aauw.org/convention.

Convention registration has begun and you DON’T want to miss out. Hundreds of AAUW members are making plans to head for St. Louis next June to shape the future of our organization. The hotel has ample convention space, lovely rooms, great restaurants and is right in the heart of downtown St. Louis. The Cardinals will be playing ball, the Zoo is free, the Art Museum is world class, as is the Missouri Botanical Garden. Theater, opera and a great children’s museum also await you.

At the convention we’ll have welcoming activities on Thursday, stimulating workshops on Friday morning, First Timers’ briefings, lively business sessions each day, dynamic keynote speakers, an exciting CEO Women Leaders luncheon, bylaws briefings, Meet the Candidates reception, elections for new officers, Taste of Success displays, the elegant banquet on Saturday night, and a final business session on Sunday morning. All this surrounded by the popular CyberStop, AAUW merchandise sales, our friendly AAUW Missouri hospitality and much more. We want YOU to have a GREAT time at the convention!

A NEW ERA FOR THE ROADRUNNER

This issue marks the official debut of the electronic Roadrunner. If you are reading this version, you will not receive a paper copy in the mail. If you prefer to receive a paper copy, send an email to roadrunnernm@gmail.com and make your request. You may also send any comments to the same email address.

I hope you enjoy this issue. I have modified the format to make it easier to read from a monitor without compromising the printed version. If you have any ideas for improvements, just let me know.

On another note, be sure to try Lina’s cookies (page 7)—they’re delicious!

Deanise Marta, Roadrunner Editor



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ E-mail: _____
 Address: _____ Phone (Home): _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone (Work): _____ Phone (Cell): _____
 Branch: _____ Delegates check one: State ____ or Branch ____
 Current Positions: Branch: _____ State: _____ Association: _____
 Special Needs: _____
 May we send your pre-convention packet via e-mail: Yes ___ No ___ (Mailed USPS)

Registration Fees:

Early Bird (postmarked on or before April 11) \$35.00 _____
 Late Registration (postmarked after April 11) & On Site \$45.00 _____
 Saturday, April 25 only (See Note 2 below) \$25.00 _____
 Saturday Night Banquet, Central Ave. Grill, \$34.00 x No. People _____ \$ _____
 (Includes choice of 4 entrees, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverage,
 tax and gratuity. A cash bar is also available.)

Please choose your entree(s)

_____ Smoked Kissed Salmon
 _____ Baseball Cup Sirloin Steak
 _____ Red Chili Honey Glazed Chicken
 _____ Vegetarian Dish of the Day

I wish to purchase ___ tickets for "Bye Bye Birdie"

Senior Tickets \$7.00 x No. People _____ \$ _____

Regular tickets \$12.00 x No. People _____ \$ _____

(Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis).

TOTAL enclosed: \$ _____

Please check the workshop that you plan to attend:

_____ Workshop 1: Green Chemistry in the Home
 _____ Workshop 2: Tips To Make Your Home Greener

Note:1) Spouse or guests are welcome to join us for lunch or the banquet for the cost of the meal.

Note 2) Lunch on Saturday must be ordered in advance, so will not be available for people who register on-site. If you desire lunch on Saturday and wish to attend for just that day, please send in the registration by April 11, 2009.

Send your registration form and check made payable to AAUW-NM Spring Convention 2009 (no credit cards) to:

Marilyn Minshall, AAUW-NM Convention Registrar
536 Brighton Drive
Los Alamos, NM 87544.

If you have any questions, contact Marilyn at (505) 672-3499.



New Mexico AAUW
 The ROADRUNNER
 6631 Vista Hermosa
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