

# The ROADRUNNER

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## FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING A GREAT SUCCESS

Amid Oktoberfest and falling leaves, 33 AAUW members participated in the Fall Workshop and Leadership Team Meeting in Las Vegas October 10 and 11. Friday, over schnitzel and potato dumplings, we renewed friendships and enjoyed the ambience of the 1882 Plaza Hotel's dining room.



Nina Thayer (Los Alamos), Louise Drlik (Las Vegas), and Ruth Benjamins (Las Cruces) await dinner in the Plaza Hotel Dining Room.



Carol Durham

Saturday's keynote speaker, Carol Durham, the 2008 New Mexico Woman of the Year and 2008 New Mexico Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, shared insights about leadership and how we often end up in leadership roles we didn't seek, but through which we can make valuable contributions to our communities. Her address was moving and impressive.

The new Association bylaws were discussed briefly during the meeting. Now that the first round of comments are in, a second draft will be published in the *AAUW Outlook* magazine for everyone to review and comment upon. The membership will vote on the bylaws at the Association Convention next June in St. Louis. The most controversial change is the change in membership eligibility – eliminating the degree requirement, and only requiring that members support the AAUW mission.

The African Chorus of the United World College provided entertainment following lunch. They gave a varied and spirited performance of songs in many different African languages, accompanied by dancing and drumbeats.



Members of the African Chorus of the United World College

Following the entertainment, we began the leadership training portion of the day. Nancy Scheer, Helena Whyte, Carol Ann Council, Lina Germann, and Rosmarie Frederickson conducted workshops in Finance, Membership, Marketing and Communications, and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) using the DVD-base programs provided by Association. The green tomato cake made by Las Vegas member Martha McCaffrey was a hit during the refreshment break. Virtually everyone requested the recipe.

This was the first time we held both a workshop and Leadership Team meeting in one day. Although we had to move quickly to cover both the business topics and the leadership training, we completed everything we intended to do in the allotted time. Perhaps this can serve as a model for one-day meetings in the future.

*Karyl Lyne, Las Vegas Branch Co-president and Fall Leadership Team Meeting Chair*

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

### CO-PRESIDENTS DEVELOP GENDER EQUITY PROGRAM FOR BRANCHES

As we mentioned in the last *Roadrunner*, your co-presidents are preparing a program on *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education*. We plan to use Catherine Hill's PowerPoint presentation from the 2008 Spring Convention, and we have dates already scheduled with the West Mesa and Los Alamos branches. We have included background information below for those of you who may not be familiar with how this research came about.

In 1991, AAUW published *Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America*, followed the next year by *When Schools Shortchange Girls*. These two powerful presentations awakened the nation to the problems and effects of gender bias in American schools and had a far-reaching impact on education. Over the last decade-and-a-half, several experts have claimed that AAUW's success at "breaking down barriers" for girls has been accomplished to the detriment of boys, thus resulting in a boys' crisis in American public schools. *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education* debunks this notion, demonstrating that when girls do better in school, boys do better also. It does, however, reveal a gap in achievement when race, ethnicity, and family income are factored into the data. We are studying this research in more depth. Let one of us know if you would like us to visit your branch to discuss this important issue.

AAUW has always been at the forefront of women's issues. Many of us who were weaned in AAUW on the chant "Hey, hey, what do you say? Ratify the ERA!" (for you younger members, this is NOT ancient history), could barely imagine a time when a Hillary Clinton would almost clinch a presidential nomination or a Sarah Palin would run for Vice President of the United States. However, an August 31 New York Times article titled *Girl Power at School, but NOT at the Office*, written by Hannah Seligson, confirms that excelling in school in no way guarantees success in the workplace, where the "good ol' boy" system still abounds and women sometimes undermine their own advancement. So, although we have made progress, **EQUITY IS STILL AN ISSUE!**

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We are thrilled to work together as co-presidents to advance the AAUW mission. Every member in every branch has a significant role to play in this effort. We hope you will join us at the Winter Leadership Team meeting and Legislative Day in Santa Fe on February 8 and 9, 2009. And a safe and happy holiday season to each and every one of you!

Mary Sandford and Nina Thayer, Co-presidents



State Officers at the Fall Workshop, from left: Virginia Spruiell, Finance Chair; Mary Sandford, Co-President; Nina Thayer, Co-President; and Karen Nelson, Secretary

### WHY BOTHER WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING?

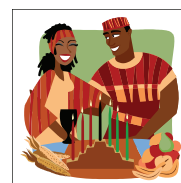
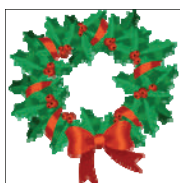
Strategic planning serves New Mexico AAUW by helping the organization to:

- Build consensus about where AAUW-NM is going
- Define realistic goals and objectives that support our efforts to reach our mission and vision
- Communicate these goals and objectives to our members and branches
- Ensure it makes effective use of our limited resources
- Establish benchmarks from which progress can be measured
- Work more closely as a board and in our branches to achieve our vision for women and girls in New Mexico

So, if you haven't thought about doing a branch strategic plan, let me encourage you to make that a part of your branch programming this year. If you need help or want more information, contact me at [gilbertk@wnmu.edu](mailto:gilbertk@wnmu.edu) or 575-313-7793.

Kathie Gilbert, Strategic Planning Chair

Happy



Holidays!



## NM SCHOOLS DISCUSS FUNDING FORMULA

At the most recent Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) meeting, a group of school districts discussed the potential impact of the new public school funding formula proposed during the 2008 legislative session on school district programs and student achievement. These schools consisted of thirteen public school districts in the north-central part of the state and nine charter schools. The public districts were divided into three groups according to enrollment. The proposed funding formula allows smaller districts to receive additional funds since the per-student cost in a small district is higher than in districts with an enrollment closer to the statewide average of approximately 3,532. The formula also increases the adjustment in districts with a high poverty rate. Adjustments also are made for districts with a higher proportion of students in high school. The three largest districts – Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Los Lunas – received an adjustment reflecting the fact that large districts can achieve economies of scale greater than small and mid-size districts. There are also differences in need in regard to English language learners and student mobility. The formula varies slightly for charter schools.

Representatives from the five public post-secondary institutions in central New Mexico discussed their P-20 partnerships with local school districts to improve student success.

Discussion also took place concerning the distribution of funds by Patrick Lyons, Commissioner of Public Lands, from the Land Grant Permanent Fund and whether the money was being used to supplement or supplant school money from the General Fund.

The next meeting will be held in Deming with districts from the southern part of the state.

*Ruth Benjamins, Academic Co-chair*

## SPRING CONVENTION PLANNING HAS BEGUN

Plans are under way for the Spring Convention to be held in Los Alamos from April 24 through April 26, 2009. The theme will address issues concerning the environment and how to be “green”. The Los Alamos branch formed a convention committee and booked some rooms at the Best Western Hilltop House at a cost of \$89.95 per night, including tax and complimentary hot breakfast. The rooms have either one king- or two queen-sized beds. All rooms contain refrigerators and microwaves, and there is a small swimming pool on the premises. Amenities include a lounge and bar in the building, open from 4 until 10 pm, where you can get a drink and/or a bite to eat. We also plan to provide bed and breakfast at the homes of branch members for a donation to the Educational Foundation (EF).

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be the site of the convention meetings. The Fall Workshop in 2006 was also held at this venue. We are hoping to have a catered lunch on Saturday.

The Leadership Team meeting on Sunday morning will take place at the lovely home of Nina and Gary Thayer, located in the Quemazon Communities of Los Alamos.

We are still investigating places for the banquet and opportunities for entertainment, as well as arranging for speakers. Stay tuned for further information.

*Natalie G. Markin and Will Anne Ricer, Program Co-chairs*

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AAUW offers members many opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills, and one of the most valuable of these is to serve as an officer at the state level. Next June, three elected officers will retire from our Leadership Team, leaving vacancies for **Program/Issues Coordinator** and **Finance Chair**. The **Public Policy Coordinator** is also looking for a co-chair to represent the southern part of our state.

By assuming one of these offices, not only will you have the opportunity to share your skills and further develop leadership qualities, but also will have fun as part of a team that is proud of their record of supporting equity for all women and girls. They enjoy the rewards of a mission-driven organization and friendship of like-minded women.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact me at [kk-ca\\_council@msn.com](mailto:kk-ca_council@msn.com) for a job description. You may also contact nominating committee members Marilyn Dunn (MDunn45191@aol.com), or Louise Drlik, (pandora13@desertgate.com) for additional information.

*Carol Ann Council, Nominations Chair*

## QUILT RAFFLE UNDERWAY



The New Mexico Quilters Association generously donated a handmade, queen-sized quilt to benefit EF and LAF. Lina Germann, LAF Chair (left), and Rosmarie Frederickson, EF Chair (right), began selling raffle tickets during the summer. Tick-

ets are available at all Leadership Team meetings and from each branch. The drawing will be held at the Spring Convention in Los Alamos. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. Please “take a chance” on this beautiful piece.

### LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF) CONTRIBUTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

The Association recently reported that from 1/1/2008 to 9/30/2008, AAUW-New Mexico and its branches had contributed \$1,685 to LAF. The state organization contributed \$592. The branch contributions were as follows:

- Las Cruces \$470
- Los Alamos \$280
- Santa Fe \$243
- Socorro \$50
- Las Vegas \$50

The following branches are "missing in action":

- Albuquerque
- Carlsbad
- Grant County/Silver City
- Portales
- West Mesa



Please consider a year-end donation to LAF if possible. It is very easy to contribute at the AAUW website, and your contribution will be credited to your branch. Thank you.

Lina Germann, LAF Chair

### GRACE BARKER WILSON AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 10

The AAUW-NM Grace Barker Wilson Award for Distinguished Service honors those who have challenged the status quo in the area of women's issues. Honorees will have worked to advance AAUW's mission. They may have acted to increase women's rights; raise women's and girls' self-esteem, or in any other way applicable to the mission.



Each branch received an information packet in late October including the nomination guidelines, a calendar, a brief biography of Grace Barker Wilson, a list of past award winners, and a nomination form. Please mail all completed nomination forms to me at PO Box 2336, Las Cruces, NM 88004 by the February 10 deadline. The winner will be announced at the Spring Convention in Los Alamos.

If you have any questions about the award criteria or nomination process, please contact me at 575-382-5543, or stilesb@aol.com.

Beverly Stiles, Outreach Coordinator

### EF STRIVES TO MEET 2008 CORRINE WOLFE FUND GOAL

Patricia Jonietz, former AAUW-New Mexico EF Chair, wrote an inspirational piece for the *Roadrunner* in 2004 and I think that it well worth repeating! Many of you have really taken this to heart, as is evident by the current total of the Corrine Wolfe International Endowment. We presently have \$76,300 in the fund. Let us work hard to reach \$80,000 by December 31, 2008 so we can get closer to putting this money to work for women and girls.

EF is the tool to support the AAUW mission. In addition, the EF provides funds to advance education, research, and the self-development of women and to foster equity and positive social change. As Patricia stated:

*Why do you give from your personal resources to AAUW?*

- *Give to share our advantages with others.*
- *Bestow opportunity*
- *Confer a legacy*
- *Present praise*
- *Grant support*
- *...for women who follow us!*

- *Receive private satisfaction from changing the society.*
- *Obtain personal goals*
- *Gain friends*
- *Acquire sustenance*
- *Achieve power*
- *...for the women who follow us!*

- *Honor the beliefs and principles that govern our lives.*
- *Acknowledgement of companions*
- *Recognition from friends*
- *Reputation for achievement*
- *Memorial to our mentors*
- *...for the women who follow us!*

This year, you have had many opportunities to give personal financial support to EF. If you choose to make a year-end contribution to the Corrine Wolfe International Fund, please remember to designate fund #4226 on your check or electronic donation.

Your challenge is to accept that opportunity to support your beliefs and make a contribution to tomorrow. Thank you.

Rosmarie Frederickson, EF Chair

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## 2009 LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING AND LEGISLATIVE DAY



*Lobby Corps members after a humorous training session*

The Santa Fe branch once again is hosting the AAUW State Leadership Team meeting on Sunday, February 8, followed by our annual Legislative Day on Monday, February 9. The meeting, followed by a potluck dinner, will be held as in previous years at the Santa Fe Skies RV Park, thanks to branch member Flossie Brown.

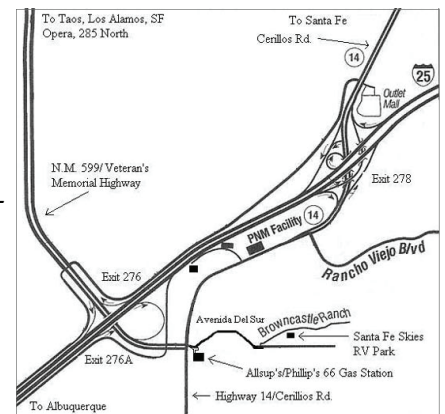
If you are interested in a bed and breakfast opportunity for Sunday night with a Santa Fe branch member, please call Sandra Bradley at 505-983-5125, or e-mail her at sandbrad@aol.com.

To reach the Santa Fe Skies RV Park, follow the directions below:

- Coming north on I-25 from Albuquerque, take exit 276A. Turn right at the bottom of the off ramp. Proceed straight through the stoplight at NM Hwy 14, going past the Allsup's/Phillips 66 which will be on your right. Santa Fe Skies RV Park is about 1/2 mile up the road on the left. You can't miss it!
- Coming south from Las Vegas, take the 276A exit from I-25. Turn left under I-25 and continue to the stoplight as mentioned above.
- If you are coming from downtown Santa Fe, just travel south on Cerrillos Road crossing under I-25 until you get to the traffic light at the Allsup's/Phillips 66 gas station. Take a left at the light and come on up the hill about 1/2 mile, we're on the left at the top of the hill.

Call the RV Park at 505-473-5946 or 1-877-565-0451 if you need more help finding it.

The Leadership Team meeting will begin at 12:30, followed by a social hour and dinner from 5:00 to 6:30. Details on after-dinner speakers and lobby training are still being determined. You will receive all pertinent information in your packet from our co-presidents in January.



*The 2008 Lobby Team with soon-to-be Governor Diane Denish*

On Monday morning, those members who are planning to lobby will meet in the foyer of the governor's office. Members from the same districts will form groups to visit their legislators, and decide whether to visit their representative or senator, or divide up and visit both. First time lobbyists should partner with experienced members. There are certain ground rules that must be followed, such as no questions until a speaker has finished speaking. As there are between five and ten minutes allowed for questions, be sure to write your questions down. Also, no one may ask a second question of a legislator until everyone present has had an opportunity to ask a first question. Dixie Trebbe can help anyone who needs a "refresher course" on the ground rules.

Lunch plans have not been made as of yet, but you will receive information regarding lunch in your packet in January.

*Shelly Rossbach, President, Santa Fe branch  
Dixie Trebbe, Public Policy Co-chair  
Jean Bahr, Academic Co-coordinator*



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### THANK YOU LAS VEGAS!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in *Learning Leadership in Las Vegas* on October 11. Making the Fall Workshop a success would have been impossible without the leadership of Natalie Markin, our Program Co-chair, and Karyl Lyne, Pam Daves, and the entire Las Vegas branch (as well as Chad, the Las Vegas tech guru!).



Special thanks also to our great facilitators—Nancy Scheer, Carol Ann Council, Helena Whyte, Rosmarie Frederickson, and Lina Germann. Our job is so much easier with the cooperation of a fantastic Leadership Team!

We now hope to see an outstanding turnout in Santa Fe in February!

*Mary Sandford and Nina Thayer*  
Co-presidents

### MINI-GRANTS AWARDED TO BRANCHES

Five New Mexico branches were awarded Mini-Grants during the October Leadership Team meeting. Both Los Alamos and Santa Fe branches received grants to help with the expenses of voter forums they co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters. The Albuquerque branch was given a grant to defray some of the cost of organizing a student affiliate group at the Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque (the West Mesa branch is also helping with this project). The Las Cruces branch was awarded funds to pay for one school bus to transport girls to the annual Girls Can conference, and the Carlsbad branch received funds to assist with its new project – a Science Lock-in Night at one of the local middle schools.

Congratulations to these branches for implementing projects that reach out to their communities and that promote the mission of AAUW! We are pleased to assist with these efforts.

*Nancy Scheer, Mini-Grant Coordinator*

### THE RETURN OF BRANCH NEWS

#### Grant County – Emily Warner, President

On October 16 we held an international potluck, inviting our local high school and college international students. As one member put it, “It was worlds of fun!” Ecuador, Korea, Nigeria, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Scotland, New Zealand, and more were represented at the table. The food was varied, interesting, and delicious – no one went away hungry! Many of the students who attended left feeling more a part of our community, while the Silver City locals felt more a part of the world at large. We are already talking about an expanded version for next year.

Our November 20 meeting addressed sweeping changes in the New Mexico School Curriculum. Silver High School Vice Principal Terri Carr described the upcoming changes to high school education in New Mexico. Rumors and pieces of information have been circulating for far too long. It’s time to find out from those who are responsible for implementing the new paradigm just what that new paradigm entails. How will the *Work In New Mexico* program’s Career Clusters affect our children’s educational choices? Will middle and high school education in New Mexico be more like the “career track” approach taken by European countries? Will more students be steered into vocational studies rather than studies that lead them to universities? Terri presented the facts and answered our questions.



#### Albuquerque – Ted Cooley, Co-president



The Albuquerque branch has kept its membership close to last year’s level, even though we needed to raise dues to balance our budget. Cindy Wise continues to organize the student affiliate chapter at Central New Mexico Community College. We have discussed interest in a possible 2010 program on Women, Girls, and Border Issues, both locally and at the Fall Workshop. This type of program was designated a priority at the Regional Conference in Salt Lake City last June. We also have made contact with the Mexican Consulate in Albuquerque to determine their interest in participating in any programs related to border issues.

## MORE BRANCH NEWS

### *Carlsbad—Karen Nelson, President*

For the first time since the 1980s, Carlsbad has a membership of over 50. We stand at 57 members. Some programs are still in the planning stage, but we're very excited about this year for our branch.

- Our new school superintendent spoke at our September meeting and then joined our branch.
- Our branch joined the Chamber of Commerce and participated in the local Business Fair on September 20 registering almost 30 voters and raffling items to support EF.
- On October 1 we held a public candidate forum. Mark Sanchez, William Shoobridge, Roxanne Lara, and Harry Teague attended. Most of the other candidates sent a representative. We held the forum at NMSU-Carlsbad and attracted many young voters. The forum was filmed by NMSU-Carlsbad's digital media class and aired on their local channel.
- In November we held an extension of last year's girls' rocket launch for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls by having an all-night science lock-in with the launch in the morning as the culminating event. We are calling it GURLS (Girls Using Real Life Science).
- We will continue with our Girl-of-the-Month program that honors the top 18 high school senior girls.
- In February we plan for a public forum on border issues.
- Our Scholars' Reception in March honors all high school girls with a 3.5 GPA or higher.
- In October we held our annual "Trunk and Treasure" sale fundraiser to benefit our scholarship program, and are adding another sale in the spring to increase our donation to EF/LAF.
- Our book group and wine and cheese tasting groups are going strong and have exciting plans for the year.

You can keep up with our branch and its activities by visiting our website at [www.pvtnetworks.net/nelsons](http://www.pvtnetworks.net/nelsons).

### *Las Vegas—Karyl Lyne, Co-president*

The Las Vegas Branch is pleased to welcome six new members to its ranks. They joined as a result of our September 6 Fall Membership brunch.

Branch work has revolved around Get Out the Vote activities. Eight branch members are voter registrars and have worked at the two high schools, the senior center, the People's Faire, the Health Fair, Sabor de Las Vegas, Student Welcome Back Night, and a number of community specific events registering voters.

We co-sponsored an Election Integrity Forum featuring the DVD *Stealing America: Vote By Vote* on September 23. The film was preceded by a review of voting procedures by the San Miguel County Clerk. Discussion following the film was led by Pat Leahan, the director of the Las Vegas Peace and Justice Center, who was featured in the film. The film is an update of a film produced prior to the 2004 election and focuses on voting problems in the 2004 election.

We are sorry to be saying good-bye to long time member, Nancy Childs. She is moving to a lower altitude (location yet to be determined) for health reasons. Nancy served the Las Vegas Branch in many capacities, but really hit her stride in coordinating more than 20 public policy forums on everything from U.S. foreign policy to candidates for county, state, and national offices. We'll miss Nancy's energy, enthusiasm, and expertise in creating interesting and informative forums on timely public policy topics.

In November, we heard from geologist and City Councilor Andy Feldman regarding the Gallinas Hydroelectric Project: Multipurpose Hydroelectric Dam in the Gallinas River Canyon with Water Distribution and Conveyance System.

**THE SPRING ROADRUNNER WILL FEATURE BRANCH NEWS FROM LAS CRUCES, LOS ALAMOS,  
SANTA FE, SOCORRO, AND WEST MESA**

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## AAUW RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The following is an excerpt of a press release from AAUW dated October 16, 2008. It was included in the November 2008 Washington Update. For the full press release, please visit the Association website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).



AAUW recently won a two-year, \$249,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to launch a major study of the causes and dynamics behind the low participation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. This is AAUW's fourth grant from NSF.

Set for a 2010 release, the study has the potential to garner public support for policies to even out the disparities in the higher-paying, male-dominated STEM fields, in which women are woefully underrepresented.

"Our report will sound the alarm," said AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman, CAE. "As a nation, we cannot afford to take baby steps toward achieving parity, especially when we're facing shortages of professionals in the STEM fields. How can we stay competitive in the global economy when half of our population isn't fully engaged in those areas?"

While progress has been made in many STEM fields, women remain far behind in critical areas, including computer science. High school girls represent only 17 percent of computer science Advance Placement (AP) test takers. College-educated women earn only 27 percent of bachelor's degrees in mathematics and computer science. AAUW's new research report aims to help turn back this trend and ensure that girls and women are fully represented in these critical STEM fields.

## !!!IMPORTANT MESSAGE!!!

### ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF ROADRUNNER BEGINS WITH THIS ISSUE

The Winter Roadrunner marks the move of AAUW-NM into the electronic age. We are delivering this issue in both printed form and by email. This will be your last printed copy if you have an email address in your Association profile.

Beginning with the Spring 2009 issue, all members with email will receive an email message with a link to the Roadrunner on our state website ONLY. Members who do not have email will continue to receive printed copies.

If you prefer to receive printed copies even though you have email, remove your email address from the Association database, or send a message to:

[roadrunnernm@gmail.com](mailto:roadrunnernm@gmail.com).



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