

## AAUW-NM LEGISLATIVE DAY Leadership Team Meeting Potluck, and B&B, in Santa Fe

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 12:30-4:40 p.m.** Come to the Leadership Team meeting in the clubhouse of the Santa Fe Skies RV Park, 14 Brown Castle Ranch, owned by Santa Fe Branch member Florenceruth Brown. From either direction it is clearly visible at the intersection of Hwy.14 and Bypass 599. Just how to reach it from I-25 is on page 2.

At 4:50 there will be a half-hour of lobbying training, and at 5:30 supper, with a speaker afterward. All members are welcome at any part of the day, but please call me if you plan to eat.

If you need a room for the night (b&b), contact Janice Skelly at 505-820-2290, or skellyassc@aol.com. For the b&b, give your hostess a voluntary \$25 donation payable to EF or LAF. If you cannot keep your reservation, call Janice and cancel.

*Kathy Costa 505-984-3157*

### **MONDAY JANUARY 27 at the Roundhouse.**

All branches need to be well-represented. We observe committee hearings and visit legislators. (Read about lobbying, p.7)

### **AAUW-NM SCHEDULE**

- ☆ **DEC. 31** Postmark deadline for EF and LAF contributions for 2003
- ☆ **JAN 1** Half year dues now accepted
- ☆ **JAN 15** Deadline for nomination suggestions for AAUW-NM Board
- ☆ **JAN 22** CHOICE Rally - Santa Fe
- ☆ **JAN 25** Winter AAUW-NM Leadership Team Meeting - Santa Fe
- ☆ **JAN 26** Legislative Day - Santa Fe
- ☆ **FEB 6** Deadline for nominations for Grace Barker Wilson Award
- ☆ **FEB 10** Deadline Spring *Roadrunner*
- ☆ **APRIL 23-25** Spring AAUW-NM Leadership Team Meetings; AAUW-NM/TX Convention - El Paso
- ☆ **JUNE 25-27** AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Convention - Albuquerque

### **AAUW-NM WEBSITE**

<http://aauw-nm.org>

### **From Our Rocky Mountain Region Director**

*Evelyn Cumming will be attending our joint*

## The Fall Workshop in Taos

What a wonderful weekend in Taos for our AAUW-NM 2003 Fall Workshop. The leaves were gorgeous, the weather perfect, and the people fantastic! A big thank you to the Taos Branch (especially Taos Branch president Margaret Killingsworth) for hosting this annual event.

In our workshop "Nitty Gritty of Branch Finance," our AAUW-NM Finance Chair Virginia Spruiell discussed various branch money topics concentrating on the EF and LAF funds, and the 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 statutes. Following that, Colleen Durocher, Taos Branch member, gave a dynamic "Meaningful Mediation" presentation that was a highlight of the entire weekend. We now grasp the importance of listening—it is the key to negotiations, both easy and difficult.

After a Southwestern buffet lunch at our host facility, the Kachina Lodge, Mary Ann Broughton, a docent at the Harwood Museum of Art, spoke on the founding of the Taos Society of Artists in the 1920's. Her special guest Elizabeth Clouse, granddaughter of one of the original members, shared some of her personal anecdotes.

In the afternoon, the "Erosion of Civil Liberties/The Patriot Act" was addressed by U.S. Congressman Tom Udall, Executive Director of the ACLU of NM Peter Simonson, and Los Alamos Librarian Suzanne LeSar. We learned how this act developed and got passed, about the increasing repercussions, and how we must be constantly vigilant. Countless questions followed.

Pleasant dinner socials took place at both the Apple Tree Restaurant and the Trading Post. Several of us also toured the town of Taos and the Harwood Museum.

The Leadership Team Meeting the next morning was well-attended with 11 of our 13 branches represented. Business covered included as follows: information regarding the Civil Rights Resolution being presented at our NM legislature; the continuing of the AAUW-NM voter registration campaign; development of the Corrine Wolfe International Fellowship in Social Sciences EF brochure;; discussion of AAUW-NM legislative day; update on 2004 AAUW-NM/TX Joint Convention; a \$100 mini-grant each to Las Vegas and Las Cruces branches. The Las Vegas grant helps support their community outreach effort--three community forums per year. The Las Cruces grant helps support their community project Girls Can!--an annual half-day workshop for middle school girls that gives participants the opportunity to explore about 25-30 professional careers with talented career women.

AAUW-NM's next big events are on January 25-26. Please use the calendar ← to mark big events on **your** calendar now!

Thanks to every member, this has been a good year for AAUW-NM. My best to each one of you for a delightful, healthy, and safe holiday season. See you in 2004!

*Carol Ann Council, PRESIDENT AAUW-NM*

*convention with AAUW-TX (April 23-25) and will be working with AAUW-NM on organizing the Rocky Mountain Regional Convention in Albuquerque (June 25-27). On the weekend of our workshop in Taos she and Barbara Carey, VGIF President, were attending the VGIF conference in New York. Evelyn sent a long message to the*

workshop. Two highlights follow.

Congratulations to AAUW New Mexico members who were successful in presenting the "Erosion of Civil Rights" resolution that was considered and passed at the AAUW Convention this summer in Rhode Island....Many of you know how unusual it is for a resolution from the floor to succeed in this manner, so please give a huge round of applause to all involved....

[On] a preliminary recipient list of those awarded Educational Foundation funding....the awards include: 77 American Fellowships to women scholars writing their dissertations; 18 Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships to support educational opportunities for girls; 58 International Fellowships to women from abroad to study in the USA; 34 Selected Fellowships to women in science/technical professions; 3 Special Awards including the Recognition Award for Emerging Scholars, the Annie Jump Cannon Award in Astronomy, and the AAUW Lifetime Achievement Award. The total amount awarded this year is \$3.4 million. Awards in our region: 2 Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowships and an American Fellowship in Arizona; an Eleanor Roosevelt Fellowship, an American Fellowship and three International Fellowships in Colorado; an American Fellowship in Utah.

---

**ARRIVING AT  
SANTA FE SKIES RV PARK  
FROM I-25**

**If Northbound**, exit 276A to Hwy. 14 traffic light, and go 1/2 mile due East across Hwy. 14.  
**If Southbound**, exit 276, come left under I-25 up to Hwy. 14 traffic light, and go 1/2 mile due East.

2

**Make your Voice Heard in Congress  
TWO-MINUTE ACTIVIST**

Visit the Two-Minute Activist at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

❖ First take one minute to read about the latest issue in Congress.

❖ Then, take one minute to personalize a pre-written AAUW

**★★ FROM ONE OF OUR  
LOBBYISTS ★★**

All of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) meetings have been attended by AAUW.

You know the results of the elec-

message and e-mail it to your member of Congress directly from AAUW's website.

- ❖ Also find easy-to-access links to your local media outlets; learn about the hot issues in Congress; and find a guide to candidates and members of Congress--all on the Two-Minute Activist!

## EF NEWS

Since returning to New Mexico, I have received one check for AAUW Educational Foundation. From the Las Vegas Branch, it was designated for the Corrine Wolfe Named Unit. In November the EF Board met and approved our request to transfer this Named Unit to the Corrine Wolfe International Fellowship. This permits the more than \$13,000 to be held in perpetuity for fellowship awards.

In March of 2003, the EF Board awarded 195 fellowships and grants totaling over \$3.4 million. There were more than 2,500 requests for funding. Unfortunately, not one of the recipients was from New Mexico.

*Women at Work*, EF's new report on how women have progressed in the past 20 years, has been released after two years of research. The news is that while more women than ever are working, barriers to equality in the workplace remain. Access the full report at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/publications/waw.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/publications/waw.cfm)

The 2005 AAUW Achievement Award Nominations are due February 15. The award of \$10,000 is given to a mature woman whose accomplishments have spanned ten or more years in an academic or professional field. If you know of a woman who might qualify, please contact me for the nomination form.

AAUW-EF has two \$2,500 travelship stipends for AAUW members to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial IFUW Conference in Perth, Western Australia, August 4-10, 2004. For more information and an application form, please contact me.

Regarding the 2004-2005 EF fellowships and grants, I have information on which persons at the Association office should be contacted about the various awards. As you meet teachers and principals at your local schools, let them know the award applications are now available.

As a fund-raiser at the convention in El Paso in April, from each branch I hope to have a gift basket filled with items or crafts that are locally made or, at least, with items or products made or produced in New Mexico.

*Pamela Daves* CO-EF CHAIR

## ✍ SUGGESTIONS for NOMINATIONS to AAUW-NM BOARD due by January 15

The Board positions to be elected at our AAUW-NM Convention in 2004 are: President, Membership Coordinator (2nd Vice-President); Recording Secretary; Academic Coordinator; Media Relations Coordinator; Educational Foundations Chair; Nominations Chair. Any suggestions from Branches or Board members will be appreciated. It is also fine to volunteer your services.

*Carol Woodworth*, NOMINATIONS  
505-445-3591 [h-cwoody@raton.com](mailto:h-cwoody@raton.com).

**tion on Constitutional Amendments:** I passed, II squeaked by. The Governor has appointed Veronica Garcia Secretary of Education. Six finalists had been selected by the Committee he named. Under Amendment I the SBE becomes an advisory board, duties to be specified by the Legislature. One of our fears about Amendment I passing is that the philosophy for public education will change every time the governorship changes--a flip-flop.

**The \$125 provided in the AAUW-NM budget for Action Alert subscriptions for our two Senators and three Representatives** has been sent to

the Association. I was asked to handle this. I feel that it is important for Action Alert to go to our Congress-persons, especially since 2004 is an election year.

Over the years we have accomplished our aim to acquire visibility for AAUW-NM in the Roundhouse.

*Terry Sleight*, LOBBYIST



**The Coalition for Choice is reconstituting** itself and is enlarging its membership. Attendees of the meetings have included NARAL New Mexico/ Right to Choose. Planned Parenthood, the NM Women's Agenda, ACLU, The Religious Coalition for Repro-ductive Rights (RCAR), AAUW-NM, MANA de Albuquerque, and NOW.

**We're planning the CHOICE Rally at the Roundhouse** on January 22. We are also discussing the upcoming Legislative sessions and preparing for action on efforts we support and for fighting those we do not support.

**There will be a March on Washington** on April 29. I attended the Mobilize for Women's Lives Rally on the Mall in DC in 1989. Many AAUW members from around the country participated.

*Terry Sleight*

COORDINATOR FOR CHOICE

AAUW people are wonderful. I hope to be back in action for AAUW-NM in January. TS

## Expect Some Changes in the State Education System

With the passage of Constitutional Amendment I, education governance changes in the following ways:

- A Secretary of Education replaces the State Superintendent of Public Instruction heretofore appointed by the State Board of Education (SBE).
- The State Department of Education (SDE) becomes a cabinet-level agency in the same way that the Department of Health, Children/Youth and Families, and the Human Services Department are.
- The SBE is replaced by the Public Education Commission (PEC) consisting of ten elected members from the same geographical districts members of the SBE represented. The ten elected SBE members will serve on the PEC until their terms expire.

The 2004 Legislature will determine the core duties for each of the three groups. The Legislative Education Study

Committee (LESC) has chosen an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Governance to develop recommendations for the legislature. Membership on the subcommittee includes legislators, school district personnel, members from the business community, and educational organizations.

With the passage of Constitutional Amendment II, the \$78 million in new dollars is expected for schools the second quarter of 2004. Over the next ten years, these monies are expected to total nearly \$600 million. Amendment II requires that this additional funding be used for educational reform passed in 2003. If the year-end market value from the Permanent Fund's preceding five calendar years is less than a "floor" of \$5.8 billion, no distribution can be made until the average is back to this "floor." A 3/5 majority vote in each house may also suspend any additional distribution. Now the \$64 question is which of the reform bills' 14 items (see list in last *Roadrunner*) will take precedence. Current discussions seem to center on the 3-tiered teacher licensure program, and the fifth (and final) year of universal kindergarten.

Interested persons are encouraged to join us in attending the open meetings of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and of the LESC to learn more about state education policies. We continue to represent AAUW-NM. I have noted four specific concerns from the Ad Hoc Subcommittee:

- ◆ Rural areas in the state want real influence with the PEC.
- ◆ Contact with the Secretary should begin with the stakeholders (at the bottom and not at the top). Contact should never be hierarchical.
- ◆ Real collaboration must be established with SDE and all other interested parties.
- ◆ The PEC should have a role in any appeal process between the Secretary of Education and the public.

I suggest reading "The 13<sup>th</sup> Bracey Report on 'The Condition of Public Education.'" *Phi Delta Kappan: the Professional Journal of Education*, October, 2003, 17 pages beginning page 148. Topics include:

No Child Left Behind; The "Highly Qualified" Teacher Trap; Vouchers; Charter Schools; Testing, NAEP--National Assessment of Education Progress and the City; "Whither the Texas Miracle?"; Edison; A Nation at Risk Turns 20.

This may be available at your school district or library or from Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., P. O. Box 789, Bloomington, IN 47402.

*Jean Bahr*, ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

---

## Grace Barker Wilson Award Nominations

The time is rapidly approaching to submit nominations for the Grace Barker Wilson Award. Materials have been sent to all branch presidents. The deadline for submissions is February 6, 2004. Three judges will be needed to select the honoree. If you have questions or if you are interested in serving as a judge, please contact Mary Sandford, 505-887-1375, e-mail M\_Sandford47@hotmail.com, or Shila Marek, 505-885-3835, e-mail Shila507@yahoo.com.

*Mary Sandford*, OUTREACH 3

## Intelligence from Branches

All telephone prefixes are 505.

**Albuquerque.** *Jan Lifson Bray*, President, 292-7270

We have been busy. Our forum on the proposed Constitutional Amendments in September resulted in a front page article in the *Albuquerque Journal*. A member gave a wonderful donation to complete our UNM Endowment for graduate women. We lobbied the Albuquerque City Council to pass a resolution Protecting the Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties, and it did! We are helping Girl Scouts plan and present a seminar. Some members are volunteer tutors for children in elementary school and for adults at TVI. Our interest groups cover art, cuisine, international relations, poetry, antiques and collectibles, literature, video drama, bridge, travel, and new members.

**Carlsbad.** *Cathlene Thackaberry*, President, 628-0678

Carlsbad now has 40 members, one of them of the male gender. We are inviting guests to many functions.

We started in the fall with an evening BBQ that kicked off the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carlsbad Branch. Our September membership-brunch program was on what went on at the national convention. Two very different experiences were described: mine as a first time attendee and Barbara Carey's as a long-time multi-year attendee. Our October program was a workshop on updating our historical scrap-book. In November we held our Trash and Treasure sale and our Girl-of-the-Month luncheon, the guest speaker a past Girl-of-the-Month. Our December get-together again focuses on our 75 years as a branch.

**Grant County.** *Adrienne Dare*, President, 388-2013

We gained several new members at our fall membership meeting in the home of the president of WNMU. On September 17 we sponsored a well-attended community forum on the proposed Constitutional Amendments. Speakers were Eduardo Holguin, president of NM NEA, Flora Sanchez, NM SBE member, and Walter Bradley representing Patrick Lyons, Commissioner of Public Lands. Our October program, Safety in the Public Schools, included data on sexual harassment and bullying in Hostile Hallways. Our November meeting on Hospice and Home Health Care stressed the importance of a living will and a durable power of attorney for health care. In December we hold our traditional Holiday Fund-raiser and potluck.

Preparing for our Expanding Your Horizons conference on March 6, we visited school superintendents in Silver City, Cobre, Deming, and Lordsburg and have gained support in transportation for the girls and money for lunches, and some money for t-shirts. AAUW-NM awarded a \$100 mini-grant to help transport girls from a remote areas, such as Columbus. We are currently setting up a web-page for AAUW as well as our EYH conference. Our first yearbook in many years will be available soon.

4

**Las Cruces.** *Ruth Benjamin*, President, 527-0204

In September we celebrated a historic moment: 80 years ago Las Cruces became the first AAUW branch in New Mexico. Past presidents spoke and a history of the branch was presented. AAUW has been an important force in the community during the past 80 years.

In September we also stressed informing our members about the proposed Amendments. Our October meeting was on the work to establish the Mesilla Valley Bosque Park on the Rio Grande, in November Louis Martinez, Superintendent of Las Cruces Public Schools, spoke and we co-sponsored with LWV a meeting on "Lobbying from Your Living room." In December our annual Holiday Event will feature Cowboy Poet Chris Buethe. Girls Can! will be held in February. Our current Interest Groups include bridge, books, "Going Places," an international dinner group, and a group that attends ball games. In April we co-host the AAUW-NM/TX Convention.

**Las Vegas.** *Ruth Hazelton*, President, 454-0185

In September Lawrence and Sue Tharp spoke about their non-profit foundation to assist women and girls in Guatemala, Nepal, Afghanistan, India and Mexico with school expenses, health clinics, and training. In October we held a community forum at Highlands on U.S. foreign policy. Panelists were Kathleen Christison, William Stewart, Gabe Hanson, Curtis Sollohub, and John Dendahl. A lively q & a period followed the presentations. The November program was on teaching remedial course work to incoming freshmen who have entered poorly prepared for college level work. In December we will have a potluck and our member Rosario Trujillo will update us on happenings in Cuba. To this meeting we bring new books for the Reach Out and Read program at our local youth clinic and gifts for patients at our local state hospital. We continue to conduct our voter registration campaign.

**Los Alamos.** *Marilyn Minshall*, Facilitator, 672-3499

Los Alamos programs are open to the public. In September the branch and LWV presented a forum with four speakers on the proposed Constitutional Amendments. In November Joyce Berry, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Family Council, spoke. In October Deborah Blanche in a dramatic performance portrayed Nina Otero Warren who in the early 1900's ran for Congress, was Public Welfare director, and Santa Fe County Superintendent of Schools. The NM Endowment for the Humanities helped the branch sponsor this chautauqua program.

**Portales.** *Mercedes Agogino*, President, 356-8709

At our September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting we realized that we, and probably others, knew little about the proposed Constitutional Amendments so we organized a public

## and other states

forum for September 18. Moderator was Dr. Sue Strickler, political science professor at ENMU. Speakers were Dr. Robert Matheny, history professor and past President of ENMU, Dr. Art Edwards, a Senior Research Physicist at Air Force Research Laboratory and President of the Coalition of for Excellence for Science and Math Education, and Dr. Luciano Baca who has been involved in NM education for many years as a public school teacher, university professor, chair of Education at NMHU, consultant, and now AARP volunteer. We distributed literature provided by the speakers and LWV. We are very appreciative of the speakers and members who volunteered, especially Dr. Patrice Caldwell, ENMU professor and director of Planning and Analysis who arranged for campus facilities on such short notice.

**Raton.** *Carol Woodworth*, President, 445-3591

We had a salad supper for our September meeting. We discussed doing projects for EF, LAF and the community, maybe a project to help prevent bullying and harassment in our public schools. In October we had a program for Breast Cancer Awareness month, with Raton's oncology nurse as a guest. Books were the subject of our November meeting. We have two new members and are looking for others to join our small branch.

**Santa Fe.** *Patricia Jonietz*, Contact, 992-0665

AAUW-Santa Fe members had a great time at the AAUW-NM workshop in October in Taos. The programs and meetings proved valuable *and* pleasant.

Santa Fe Branch held a well-attended old and new member brunch in September. In October we learned about "Art and Leadership for Girls," a program of the O'Keefe Museum for adolescent girls. At our November meeting Jane Schuster, a registered dietitian, gave a powerful talk on taking care of yourself, how *not* to diet but how to eat well and get and/or stay healthy. Then Colleen Durocher of Taos Branch led us in our discussion about recruiting and we came up with four pages of ideas to begin work on. The next BIG event is Careers and Curiosity in Math and Science, that brilliant program created by two members of the Los Alamos Branch. We were at Gonzales School November 20 and will be at Carlos Gilbert January 14. In December, we'll be treated to the dress pageant of the Santa Fe Women's Ensemble's "A Christmas Offering" in the Loretto Chapel.

On January 10 we'll have a luncheon, at Santa Fe Skies RV Park--we're negotiating for a "celebrity speaker," to be announced only if confirmed. Join us if you can. *Kathy Costa*, Nov.-Dec. Acting President

**Socorro.** *Elise Brower*, President, 835-1721

In early summer our branch and Socorro lost a wonderful supporter of women's education and the arts with the passing of Ruby Wilkening. She was one-year shy of becoming a 50-year member of AAUW.

Socorro Branch officers and members had an informal lunch in October with AAUW-NM President Carol Ann Council. Last August's annual rummage sale earned enough for EF for a named gift honoring Gladys Dana. Last year's Christmas Home Tour netted enough to give two scholarships: one to a senior woman at NM Tech and the

other to a senior woman from Socorro High School to attend a four-year accredited college, and a book award to a second high school senior. This year our annual Christmas Home Tour will be held Sunday December 14, 2-5 p.m. The tour features three homes and historic San Miguel Church. For tickets contact me,

*Mary Miller*, Historian, 836-5619 or [armiller@nmt.edu](mailto:armiller@nmt.edu)

**Taos County.** *Margarett Killingsworth*, President, 758-3942 Our August meeting was on local challenges confronting women and students in the educational and societal arenas, focusing on women's role and involvement in community solutions. Our coffee and dessert meeting on September 25 at Adobe and Pines Bed and Breakfast was on the state of economic development in New Mexico and on the work of the Taos District Attorney's office.

We have been invited again by the gracious hostesses, Mary Ann Connelly and family, to Adobe Pines Bed and Breakfast for our second annual December pot-luck season-of-joy social time. We bring canned goods or staple foods as a donation to Taos Feeds Taos. Our lunch brunch and our book group continue. Both welcome all members.

**West Mesa.** *Linda Robinson*, President, 771-1535

We have 12 interest groups, four of them new: Gourmet Dining Out, Historiadoras (studying New Mexico history), Issues Discussion, and Writers. In September we held a Membership Fair and Interest Group sign-up. In October Peter Simonson, Executive Director of ACLU-NM, spoke on the Patriot Act. In November Sophia Shafi spoke on "Islam and Women: Fact vs. Fiction," and in December we will have our annual Holidays Party. January's meeting will be a joint one with Albuquerque Branch on financial planning for retirement.

Among future highlights be April's program: Judge Judith Nakamura will speak on adjudicating domestic violence cases.

**Fredericksburg, Virginia.** Each year on a Saturday in late March at a local middle school there is a Women's Forum organized by seven women's groups. It begins with an address by a well-known woman. In 2003, the 21<sup>st</sup> forum, more than 500 women signed up and 50 workshops were given in four time slots. There are exhibits and demonstrations. At lunch there are special-topics tables in which small groups of women can talk with specialists. Fredericksburg Branch's responsibilities include setting up the topics, discussion leaders, and tables. From *Virginia Vision* Fall 2003, p.7 **5**



## AAUW Members' Who's What: Student Affiliates and Dual Members

Little-known and underutilized ways  
of expanding your membership

**Dual Members.** Dual members are AAUW members who belong to more than one branch and have full voting privileges in each branch to which they belong. They pay Association, state, and branch dues through their primary branches and branch dues directly to the other branches. Last year in New Mexico we had a number of dual members. Albuquerque and West Mesa shared nine. Both Los Alamos and Albuquerque have dual members who moved away to Oregon. This is an excellent way for long-time members who move away to stay in touch with friends and activities.

**Student Affiliates.** Students of a regionally accredited 2 or 4-year college, community college, or university are eligible to become student affiliates of AAUW. A student affiliate of a branch pays state and branch dues in addition to the \$17 Association fee. A student-affiliate-at-large pays only the Association fee. (Graduate students are not eligible to be student affiliates as they qualify for full AAUW membership.) Student affiliates receive all Association publications and benefits, however, they cannot hold office or vote. At AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders held every June the emphasis is on the issues and needs of these students.

Last year there were no student affiliates in New Mexico. This remains an untapped source. Consider asking women who will soon graduate to join your branch at the lower student price. They will be honored and your branch will have potential new members.

If you have questions about dual membership, student affiliates, or any other membership category, please contact me. In the next issue I will discuss paid life and honorary life membership. *Nina Thayer*, MEMBERSHIP  
505-662-6835 GNTHAYER@CYBERMESA.COM



### AAUW-NM News

- **The EF Corrine Wolfe International Fellowship in the Social Sciences brochure is in preparation!** It will be available for distribution in January. We hope to send one with the *Spring Roadrunner*.
- **Campaign Finance Reform not-with-us? It's true!** There is no message about Campaign Finance Reform in this issue because this will be a short legislative session, limited to budget and the Governor's Call.
- **Welcome! New members of the AAUW-NM Board:**  
**Mary Sandford** of Carlsbad Branch--Outreach  
**Betty W. Smith** of Albuquerque Branch--Media Relations

6

### Public Policy

#### OPEN A NEW WINDOW: Experiences of a new League lobbyist

JoAnne Ramponi, of Albuquerque, a retired teacher active in LWV for over 20 years, had never been a lobbyist, but her concern about an issue led her to become one in 2003. Her article is reprinted here with her permission. "Open a New Window" was published in *La Palabra, The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico*, March 2003.

There are such extensive public policy needs that AAUW-NM has Co-Public Policy Chairs and a Public Policy-New Mexico Chair. Dolores Halls of Las Cruces, who is on the Association Public Policy committee, is New Mexico Chair, and Corrine Howard and Laura Stokes are the aforementioned Co-Chairs.

++++

Corrine Howard and Laura Stokes: AAUW continues with our voter registration and UNM. We would like to hear from all branches that have been conducting them and/or having voter education forums.

We are working with the Voter Services Coalition in voter registration efforts. Some of the projects discussed have been on-campus registration, Rock-the-Vote, and target dates significant to voting rights and civil liberties.

We are working with the ACLU to support their efforts in preserving the Bill of Rights in face of the threat to our civil liberties as posed by the U. S. Patriot Act. This is a reinforcement of AAUW's focus on civil liberties as was demonstrated by the adoption of the Civil Rights resolution at the Association Convention,.

++++

Dolores Halls works-with and/ or has-represented-AAUW-NM in a variety of organizations, including Common Cause, LWV, NAACP, Social Action Committee of the Community Action Agency of Las Cruces, NM-AARP, American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Las Cruces Association of Educational Retirees, LESC meetings, a community forum on the future of the Las Cruces public hospital, and the Dona Ana County Advocates for Children and Families Legislative Roundtable.



### LAF News

We urge all branches to send in their annual contributions for LAF as soon as possible. Contributions must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2003, in order to be credited for 2003, which means that we must receive them before that date. LAF contributions must be made payable to LAF. Send them to Louise Drlik, P. O. Box 8, Montezuma NM 87731.

Each year LAF's Progress in Equity Award recognizes a college or university program that demonstrates progress for women on campus. We encourage anyone who is aware of any college or university program that could possibly qualify for nomination to submit information that can be considered. Winners receive an award of up to \$10,000 to continue their programs. These nominations are due by March 15, 2004. To receive a form for this purpose, contact Louise e-mail: pandora@desertgate.com.

*Louise Drlik and Jan Bray*, CO-LAF CHAIRS.

Since I now have no reason to say that I don't have time to do all the things I could not do when I was working, I set off on a new adventure this January. I had always heard about what goes on at the "merry roundhouse," but I had never really experienced the activity.

I went to some state Action Committee meetings in the summer of 2002 and raised concerns about the water issues in the state. That is how I got into this situation. If you raise a concern, you had better be ready to do something about it. So, ready or not, I was not just a member of the committee, but a card-carrying, registered citizen lobbyist. You know--the ones who have a commitment but no staff, no money and no expense account.

What the citizen lobbyist has is a concern for what is happening and a conviction that they can do something to see that things change and that the voice of the citizen is heard. Great idea. Sounds like democracy to me, but then, what did I know?

This is what I learned. You had better be ready to leave [*very early*] if you want one of the seven (yes, I did say seven) handicapped parking spaces close to the capitol. You had better wear comfortable shoes and bring a jacket, raincoat, umbrella or scarf. You can never tell what the weather in Santa Fe will be and if all these are in the trunk then you will be ready for anything that may come your way.

I learned that everybody knows everybody knows nobody. These lobbyists and the staff must hang out year after year and go everywhere together. They are recognized by name by the committee chairs and keep referring back to the last time that they spoke with the chair or committee. The job of lobbyist seems really important. There are so many of them. I never knew there were so many suits in Santa Fe. After all, when you walk down the streets of Santa Fe at any time of the year you hardly ever

see men this dressed up.

I also believe that after individuals have served their terms in the legislature the next step is to become a lobbyist. I recognize a lot of faces and names from the many years past.

Do I feel out of place? The answer is, "yes." I have listened to so much testimony that I now have information floating around in my head that is just looking for a place to land. I have learned about acequias, how important it is going to be to develop a chile-picking machine that does or doesn't remove the stem in harvesting, wind-generated energy, cotton gins and air quality and other things that just do not want to come to the forefront.

By the time the session has closed and the bills are in the hands of Governor Richardson, I know that this will be something I will long remember. My father always told me that it is the responsibility of each of us to leave the world better than it was when we got here. This from a man with an eighth grade education who worked in the iron mines of northern Minnesota his whole life. The son of immigrants from the Austrian Tyrol who left because of oppression and felt that it was an honor and responsibility to be Americans.

I believe that anything I am able to do on the local or state level is important. After all, my involvement in a land use issue in Albuquerque helped lead to the establishment of Petroglyph National Monument. Who says that we cannot make changes?

JoAnne ends, "The League of Women Voters is a voice of committed, knowledgeable and dedicated women and men who are willing to stand up and be counted."

That also applies to AAUW. AAUW is a voice of committed, knowledgeable and dedicated women and men who are willing to stand up and be counted.

## Public Policy Calendar

- Dec. 6 Women's Agenda Lobby Training, Albuquerque
- Dec. 15 Last day to register to vote in the New Mexico Democratic Presidential Caucus
- Jan. 17 AAUW Capitol Lobby Corps training and lunch, Corrales
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Rally, Roundhouse
- Jan. 20 Opening day at the Legislature
- Jan. 22 Choice Rally, Roundhouse
- Jan. 26 AAUW Legislative Day, Roundhouse
- Feb. 3 New Mexico Democratic Presidential Caucus
- Feb. 25 Annual reception for women legislators, sponsored by the Women's Agenda
- Mar. 2 New Mexico city elections
- June 1 New Mexico Primary Election
- Nov. 2 General Election

*Corrine Howard and Laura Stokes, PUBLIC POLICY*

## AAUW Capitol Lobby Corps

- Do you enjoy the company of convivial and intelligent persons?
- Do you thrive on intellectual challenges?
- Are you passionate about achieving equality for women and girls? (We've come a long way, but we're not there yet.)

If so, join the AAUW Capitol Lobby Corps. As a group we advocate for equality every Wednesday in Santa Fe during the legislative session. Some of the issues we have worked on successfully are education, domestic violence, vouchers, campaign finance reform, and pay equity. We are very proud and pleased to be able to say that we've made a difference.

We provide training and lobbying buddies and will be delighted to have you join us. Need information? Call Jan Lifson-Bray, 505-292-7270, or Corrine Howard, 505-897-0148.

P.S. Applicants must be interested in occasional museum hopping and lunches in Santa Fe following our mornings of talking with the legislators.

*Carolyn Glen Kaye 7*