

AAUW Mission

Statement: "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."

AAUW Unifying Focus

Statement: "Breaking through Barriers"

AAUW Value

Statement: "As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

AAUW-NM focus

statement:
"Empowering women to take charge of their lives"



Co-Presidents' Message



The Carlsbad Convention in April was a success with 9 branches attending and 41 participants. The branches represented were Albuquerque, Carlsbad, Las Vegas, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, New Mexico online, Silver City, Santa Fe, and Socorro.

We were delighted to have Gloria Blackwell from National attend. The roundtable sessions were well received and attended. Valuable information was shared with each other to take back to our branches. As we move forward into the 21st century sharing information can be a valuable tool. Discussions about what has worked and what has not can save us valuable time.

Next year's state convention will be held in **Las Cruces April 26-28, 2019**. Mark your calendars in ink to support AAUW-New Mexico.

As we look forward, the branches are considering a statewide fundraiser which will give AAUW-NM exposure by each branches advertising whether through flyers, social media, the website or advertising. More information will be disseminated as it becomes available.

AAUW National Board of Directors Bylaws amendments voting deadline was June 9. Results announced online June 10 are in:

Proposal Topic	Pass	Percent Affirmative	Yes	No	Abstain	Did Not Vote
Proposal 1. re: Staggered Terms	Yes	92.97%	13584	477	550	113
Proposal 2. re: non-AAUW Members on Board	No	48.67%	7110	6188	1310	116
Proposal 3. re: Degree Requirement	No	44.48%	6503	7121	997	103

I, Beverly Chambers, am honored to be your new state co-president and I understand I have a huge learning curve. I ask for your patience and understanding during this time.

My goal is to keep my door open to assist you with any of your needs. Please feel free to contact me by email at flagbab@mac.com or phone 575-405-0052.

Sylvia Fink and Beverly Chambers, Co-Presidents

AAUW-NM CALENDAR July 2018 - June 2019

AAUW of New Mexico
Elected Officers

Co-Presidents
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AAUW Funds Chair
VACANT

Nominations Chair
VACANT

Co-Chairs Public Policy
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Rebecca Phillips
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Immediate Past President
Helena Whyte
mozdeno8@aol.com

- July 28** Leadership Team Meeting – 10 am – noon Go-To-Meeting
- Aug. 1** Deadline: Campus Action Project (CAP) Grant applications
- Aug. 15** Deadline for Fall Roadrunner
- Aug. 18** *National Women’s Equality Day/Anniversary of the 19th amendment*
- Sep. 25** *Native American Women’s Equal Pay Day*
- Oct. 1** Branch Project Grant applications due to Branch Project Grants Chair
- Oct. 19-21** AAUW-NM Fall Workshop & Leadership Team Meeting- Las Vega
- Nov. 2** *Latina’s Equal Pay Day*
- Nov. 15** Deadline: for Winter Roadrunner
Deadline: AAUW American Fellowships
- Dec. 15** Deadline: nominations for AAUW-NM officers to Nominating Committee Chair
Deadline: Career Development Grants
- Dec. 31** Postmark deadline for AAUW Funds contributions for year
- Jan. 1** **Half-year dues are accepted**
- Jan. 10** Deadline: Selected Professions Fellowships
- Jan. 15** Deadline: International Project Grants
- Feb. TBD** Lobby Corps Meetings in Albuquerque/Bernalillo
- Feb. 10** **Winter State Leadership Team Meeting**
- Feb. 11** **Legislative Day - Santa Fe, NM**
- Feb. 15** Deadline for Spring Roadrunner
- March** Women’s History Month
- Mar. 8** *International Women’s Day*
- Mar. TBD** AAUW-NM NCCWSL Scholarship Application Deadline
- Apr. 1** Annual Reports due from State Officers & Branch Presidents
Branch Project Grant applications due to Branch Project Grants Chair
- Apr. 9** Equal Pay Day
- Apr. 26-28** AAUW-NM Convention and Leadership Team Meeting in Las Cruces
(proposed)(Files & handbooks updated by officers for successors)
- May 15** Deadline for Summer Roadrunner
- Jun. 30** Deadline for entering new state & branch officers to national
- Jun. TBD** National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

See Also: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/events-and-deadlines-calendar/> for special holidays/events concerning women

AAUW of New Mexico
Appointed Officers

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Branch Project Grants Chair
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Tech Trek 2018



Campers, Tech Trek 2018



Staff, Tech Trek 2018



9 Things We Learned about Leadership at NCCWSL.

At the 2018 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, nearly 800 students from around the world gathered to build community and sharpen their leadership skills. Here are some of our favorite moments that had us clapping, snapping, and thinking hard about the future. [Read More.](#)

The **2018 AAUW-NM State Convention** was a great success! The theme, “Back to the Future: Connecting our Past to our Future,” was fulfilled at every turn of the weekend. The convention opened with our LTM meeting and continued into the evening with wine and painting at Uncorked Art! Folks enjoyed the opportunity to discover their inner artist with instruction on painting a desert scene while catching up with AAUW friends—or making new ones—and indulging in tasty hors d’oeuvres.

On Saturday, we spent the morning going back to the basics with workshops focusing on the “limbs” of AAUW branches—Presidents, Membership, Programs, Funds, Finance and Public Policy. The leadership of our facilitators with the great questions and brainstorming of the participants made these particularly effective sessions. Their success led to evaluation requests related to more specific discussion topics, such as “more details in breakout sessions regarding responsibilities for [branch] positions,” “ways to increase & engage membership,” and tips on mentoring.

While the evaluation survey produced good feedback on these sessions, the “favorite” of the convention by far was the two panels on Saturday afternoon. What incredibly inspiring stories from amazing women and girls!! We heard “Stories from the Past” from Nancy Scheer, Carol Ann Council, Virginia Spruiell, and Gloria Blackwell. Then we heard thoughts, concerns and “Hopes for the Future” from six Carlsbad girls in high school and college. After hearing from each of the panels, all of the panel speakers came together for a lively question and answer session. The program shed light on the progress we have made in achieving equity and educational opportunity and on the unique challenges facing young women today. It also highlighted the resilience and resolve of the younger generation in meeting those challenges. Some of the comments on the survey from the afternoon included “program was refreshing, especially the opportunity to contrast the mature members (past) with the young girls (future)” and “the panels of the young and old were memorable and inspiring.”

Dr. Gloria Blackwell was our luncheon keynote speaker and “on the hot seat” during our Sunday town hall discussion regarding the AAUW election and some of the new initiatives being pursued by AAUW National. She acknowledged that there were pros and cons to the proposed bylaw amendments but counseled that change is necessary if an organization is to remain relevant in changing times and that we need to keep our focus on what will enable AAUW to remain effective as a key player in the quest for equity for women and girls.

The Saturday evening banquet offered a beautiful venue for networking and recognizing members’ achievements. Many folks took advantage of—and enjoyed—the 30-minute walk around the Living Desert Museum, with its varied flora and fauna. After dinner, Helena and Sylvia recognized the contributions of their leadership team with colorful kerchiefs, and Sheila Portillo presented Nina Thayer with the state’s new Legacy in Leadership award. The list of Nina’s services geared to advancing AAUW’s mission at the branch, state, and national levels over the last 45 years clearly established her legacy as an AAUW leader. Congratulations, Nina!

All in all, Carlsbad Branch did a wonderful job with attention to details, decorations and venue. In terms of finances, the convention broke even, thanks to a donation or two by Carlsbad members. We look forward to next year’s state convention in Las Cruces!

Rocky Lara and Judy Prono, Program Co-Chairs

The annual AAUW state convention is now a lovely memory. Thank you Rocky and all of the Carlsbad Branch for your well organized and run meeting and your warm hospitality. I also assume that each of the branches have had their annual meeting. As of July 1, a new set of officers is in place and will start preparing for September when our 2018-19 activities begin.

We all want to enjoy the summer and maybe take a trip or entertain family and friends in our homes. Our Public Policy efforts will continue throughout the summer months also. Now is the time that each branch and individual needs to be focused on Voter Education/Registration and other Get Out the Vote (GOTV) activities. Those branches that have a League of Women Voters group (or other non-partisan organizations) in their community can collaborate with them to increase participation. Those branches that do not have partnering organizations will need to be very proactive in providing these GOTV opportunities for the public. Voter registration will close October 9, 2018. The general election is on November 6, 2018. Check out “Get Out the Vote”, GOTV, at aauw.org and utilize the resources on the website. These resources currently are labeled 2016. AAUW is in the process of updating the information, and much of it is evergreen, including tips for voter registration, candidate forums, and GOTV best practices. We must advocate for our positions and get people to the polls to VOTE!

When they become available, we will want to follow the state’s constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot. One that we will most certainly want to support will be the formation of an Independent Ethics Committee.

We want to encourage all branches to provide information in their website, newsletter, Facebook page, email campaigns, and twitter storms. During the activities and any voter registrations drives, be sure to have links available.

Secretary of State: <http://www.sos.state.nm.us>

Click on the “Voter Information” tab. You can obtain much help including but not limited to:

- How to register online
- How to check your personal voter registration to make sure it is up to date and accurate
- Get a sample ballot
- See the wording for Constitutional Amendments (CA) and statewide bonds
- Where to vote

Other voter information sites

- <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org> (September 25, 2018)
- <https://www.lwv.org/elections/vote411>
- <https://votesmart.org>
- <http://blackboxvoting.org>
- <http://866ourvote.org>
- Voter guides
- Interviews with candidates published in local papers
- Attend candidate forums and debates

Rebecca and I, with input from others, have updated the AAUW-NM Lobby Corps Job Description and membership form. When the Job Description is approved at the July LTM, Rebecca will be sending these out to all members asking you to complete the form and return it to her. She is developing a matrix for sorting Lobby Corps members into interest groups and Representative and Senate Districts. This should help us directly target specific communication to members when legislation is introduced, sent to committees, or to the full floor that will be of interest to them.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate contacting Rebecca, beccarphillips@gmail.com or Sonya, berg.sonya42@gmail.com

My overall takeaway is that AAUW has attracted—and mobilized—some pretty amazing women. Speakers certainly lived up to the conference theme, Women Unlimited and Undaunted.

I was particularly impressed with Saturday's presentations, which started off with a panel discussion on what we can do to combat sexual assault and child sex abuse. The panel was moderated by a certified sexual assault counselor/victim advocate and included the Director of Public Policy at YWCA Utah, a lawyer with Utah's Juvenile Defender Attorneys, and a prosecutor from the Juvenile Court Division of Davis County, UT. Their link was involvement in the Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault (UCASA). They were articulate and passionate about their work not only to prevent and prosecute such crimes but also to raise awareness of sexual abuse and to support its survivors. The bottom line: prevention needs to start in kindergarten to combat gender and ethnic biases, address bullying, and instill respect for peers as individuals not gender stereotypes.

Their talk was followed by Susan Landino's emotional account of her decade-long fight to hold Yale University accountable for not investigating and reporting gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct prohibited by Title IX. Hers was a David vs Goliath story of what retaliation looks like in academia—including demotions, professional humiliation, isolation from colleagues, and workplace violence. With help from a victim's rights lawyer and AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund, she eventually won her case against Yale but at a high cost in terms of mental and physical duress, marriage (which ended in divorce), academic career (cut short), and financial security (ruined). She is now writing a book about her "rough journey for equality" and has launched a foundation to support other women who face discrimination and retaliation related to Title IX noncompliance. She received a standing ovation at the end of her talk.

In the afternoon, Cheri Burch, Helena Whyte, and Claudia Poglitsch made an excellent presentation on the outreach and impact Tech Trek has had in not only broadening the STEM horizons of middle school girls but also increasing awareness of and membership in AAUW across our state. Conference attendees were impressed with camp demographics and curriculum, the wide support Tech Trek receives from NM members and branches, and attention given to creating a safe learning environment for the girls. The camp's scope and success were also touted by Julia Brown and Kim Churches during the conference. We also heard about Arizona's ongoing legislative work to pass the ERA and about Utah's success in raising \$30-40,000 a year for college scholarships; and we were gently reminded by R. C. Johnson (Wyoming) that our mantra for AAUW work should be "if it is to be, it is up to me."

And after the Saturday evening banquet, we were treated to a rousing pep talk from Kim Churches, AAUW's new CEO. As Julia promised, we have an articulate and dynamic CEO leading not only the strategic planning process at national but charting the path forward for doubling down on AAUW's mission of promoting educational and economic equity for women and girls. Kim is a results-oriented gender-equity champion who is focused on the bottom line, from fiscal responsibility (balanced budget) to attainable goals (pay equity by 2030). She is looking to leverage AAUW's research and programs to advance gender equity by collaborating with other organizations that complement our work and by identifying our unique areas of expertise and influence. And her message was clear: don't fear change, embrace it. To succeed, we have to embrace changes that will advance our mission, vision, and values. Come the end of the summer, we should expect new marching orders on how we all—branches and members—can pitch in to achieve AAUW's equity goals. Stay tuned!

Judy Prono

Rocky Mountain Regional Conference



Photos: Carl Ann Council

Beth Urech of Las Vegas writes a regular column for the local paper. Here's an article she wrote in May, reprinted with her permission:

Yes, absolutely, Girls Can! in Las Vegas

When you were 10, did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up? Now, 117 fifth graders have a clearer idea of the possibilities awaiting them, thanks to Girls Can! sponsored by American Association of University Women.

On May 17, school buses poured out both smiling and shy looking girls from Sapello, Union, Sierra Vista, Don Cecilio, Mike Mateo Sena, Tony Serna and Valley schools.

In the Highlands University Ballroom, AAUW's co-president Phyllis Ludi explained that the letters stand for American Association of University Women and that the Las Vegas chapter is committed to our community, including twice-a-year book sales which help fund scholarships for non-traditional women at Highlands.

Now let's join a dozen fifth-graders in the lab of Biology Professor Sarah Corey-Rivas who shows video clips of her catching her first anaconda and luring a rattlesnake into a tube. The girls are both frightened and fascinated.

Next, they meet two live Boreal Toads which are extinct in New Mexico. Substituting chicken eggs for toads, the girls weigh and measure them, collect DNA, check for skin fungus and scan chips attached to the eggs.

Two eggs break, but that's okay. "Where do the Boreal Toads exist now?" Colorado which is where Corey-Rivas researches them. "How do you tell the difference between males and females anacondas?"

Females are bigger.

Time is up, and the girls move to another lab. Forestry professors Blanca Cespedes and Julie Tsataros simulate rainfall into dirt-filled beakers covered with nothing, plants, straw or manure.

Having poured 300 milliliters of water into the beakers, girls observe that plants, straw and manure do a better job of keeping water in the ground and also produce cleaner run-off water.

Interestingly enough, the girls can identify the Great Barrier Reef but don't know the name of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range visible through the window.

Under the guidance of Jessica Johnsen of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences, girls make a facsimile of a mother board.

Kristen Romero of the Business School discusses marketing and has the girls design online promotions of sporting events and unicorns.

With Lt. Monica Vigil, a police officer with the Las Vegas Police Department, the girls learn how to take fingerprints.

April Kent, NMHU librarian, sends the girls in search of a book in Donnelly Library.

Bernadette Lujan, DOM, introduces the girls to acupuncture. Originally apprehensive, once they see that the needles are not like the ones used to give injections or take blood samples, they are curious and engaged.

Today's practical and incredibly hands-on sessions are ideal for inquisitive fifth-graders. In a written survey, the girls are asked to circle the jobs that girls cannot do. All but 15 of the girls believe girls and boys can do any of the listed jobs.

What can't girls do? Carpenter, plumber, lawyer, engineer, professor, president, boxer; whereas boys cannot be nurses or librarians. We see that gender-biased answers still exist but hopefully girls are learning that Girls Can!

This June, in another program to expose girls to professions in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields, 65 girls from all over New Mexico will attend AAUW's Tech Trek science camp at New Mexico Tech in Socorro.

In addition to classes, they will go on field trips to Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center at NM Tech. Funded by individuals, businesses, non-profits, and the NM Public Education Department, staff are AAUW members, and two Las Vegas girls will be in attendance.

As our Girls Can! participants head back to their schools, we wonder if eventually one of them will become a conservation biologist, a computer programmer, a librarian, a marketing guru, a police officer, an acupuncturist, or a forester.

Time will tell.

Our branch has had a very busy and productive spring. After months of study and review, we approved our branch's bylaws revisions in May. We also elected new officers for the coming year. Officers elected for two-year terms are: Christa Slaton (Co-President), Marsha Odgen (Co- VP Program Chair), and Laura Bemis (Co-Membership Chair). They will join the branch's Board on July 1, 2018, serving with Julia Bruner (VP Program Chair), Marsha Hokkanen (VP Membership Chair), Fran Plec (Secretary), Christine Long (Treasurer), Shirley Armstrong (Past President), Judy McGuire (Communications Chair), Cheryl Wilson (Public Policy Chair), and Anne Hubbell (Special Projects Chair).

Girls Can! was held on March 10, 2018 at the Dona Ana Community College East Mesa Campus, offering 16 workshops for the sixth-grade girls from schools across the county. Londa Seiffert and Kay Brilliant are already planning our 25th year of Girls Can to be held at the college campus in 2019.

Several of our members attended the state convention in Carlsbad in April. It was inspiring, particularly the panel composed of young women looking to the future and long-time members reflecting on the past. The evening walk, reception, and banquet at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens was an enriching and memorable experience. Las Cruces will host the convention in 2010. Kathie Davis welcomes volunteers to assist with the convention. She can be contacted at kdavis@lcps.net. Dates for the convention are April 26, 27 & 28, 2019.

Carol Ann Council, Beverly Chambers, and I attended the Regional meeting in beautiful Salt Lake City in June. The hosts were gracious and presented an informative and interactive program. Among the special features were presentations by National Board Chair Julia Brown and Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches. We had a lengthy morning discussion with Kimberly about AAUW's new strategic plan. Kimberly is knowledgeable, energetic, and passionate about AAUW's mission. She also encouraged us to diversify our membership and to stay engaged. Further, she encouraged us to ponder words from Benjamin Franklin: "If you are finished changing, you're finished." The state reports were brimming with positive examples of recruitment, public policy victories, and projects for girls and women. Colorado will host the regional meeting in 2020. K.C. Johnson (Wyoming) cheered us on with her statement: "If it is to be, it is up to me."

Submitted by Christa Slaton, Co-president

Member Spotlight: Shirley Armstrong of Las Cruces

"Smiled on by Fate"

I am one lucky person and I know it!

Four days ago, Saturday Feb 3, I had a heart attack. Within 24 hours, I went from the Farmer's Market to the Mountain View Regional Medical Center ER to the hospital and after getting my blood pressure under control (early Sunday morning) to the cath lab where I received an angioplasty that placed a stent in the 95% blocked major artery in my heart. I was back in my hospital room by 8:30 a.m., only 21 hours after leaving the Farmer's Market.

I am not sharing this information to be dramatic. I simply want ALL of you to get the same information but more importantly to stress the importance of knowing – and paying attention to – the major signs of heart problems for females. Mine were classic: Strong discomfort and pressure in my left shoulder that radiated to both front of chest, back shoulder blade and down my left arm; feeling of tightness in the back of my neck and a sudden headache; upset feeling in my stomach; shortness of breath and overall feeling of distress and weakness. There may be more but those were mine.



I said I was lucky because I experienced a scaled down version of those same symptoms on Friday morning, Feb 2, while walking with a friend. We sat for a while, the symptoms went away, and we continued the second half of our walk. I dismissed them as sore muscles from extra strain in Thursday's yoga class but also recognized them as symptomatic of women's heart health problems, so I took an aspirin and carried on with my somewhat active day.

When the same symptoms but worse returned as Michael and I walked the downtown mall on Saturday, I described them to him and said I felt like going home to rest. I felt bad enough that I sat on a bench and asked him to get the car. *Over my protests* (I simply couldn't be having heart problems!) he drove straight to the ER.

The morale: Know the symptoms and listen to your body even if you don't think you are a candidate for heart problems. I certainly didn't and had had fairly recent medical tests to prove it. (I was declared heart healthy by a cardiologist as part of the pre-op requirements for my Sept 2016 back surgery).

Just this morning I was reading a book where a young woman made the following statement about her parents: *They taught me that's the responsibility that comes with being smiled on by fate.* Although this is a different circumstance - she was talking about giving back by volunteering - her statement rang true with what I've been thinking. I was *smiled on by fate*, so I write this in hopes that all of you become heart knowledgeable and listen to your bodies!

PS: I said in the hospital that at least I picked the right month to have my HA. Our general meeting Saturday couldn't be timelier, and I plan to be there.



AAUW-New Mexico
The Roadrunner
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First Class Mail

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