



# AAUW NM Winter *Roadrunner*

**Mission:** to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Remember to click on the [underlined blue](#) text to visit a website or send email.



*From your Leadership Team to all AAUW NM membership*



**Beverly Chambers**  
Co-President

**Sylvia Fink**  
Co-President



## From Our Presidents:

Welcome to the last quarter of 2019. Entering this fiscal year, we were without a Public Policy Chair. At our Fall Leadership meeting in Albuquerque the end of October **Pamelya Herndon** was appointed as our new public policy chair. Pamelya has accepted the position for the balance of 2019-2022 and **Kathie Davis** has accepted the position of Nominating Chair for the balance of 2019-2021. We are so excited to have Pamelya aboard, please congratulate her when you see her in Santa Fe in February.



At our business meeting Pamelya presented *New Mexico's Fair Pay for Women's Act* cases which provided us with a great education and information. Pamelya will be taking the lead in our winter workshop in Santa fe and you will not want to miss seeing her in action. Pamelya maybe reached at [pherndon@kwhlawcenter.org](mailto:pherndon@kwhlawcenter.org).

**A new Five Star Recognition Program** is being launched by National to celebrate the efforts of AAUW states and branches. (more on this below) Through engagement in activities affiliates can earn national recognition. **Judy Prono**, did an excellent detailed presentation about this program at the October LSM. The Branches requested more

information before a decision can be made. You can review more details about the Five Star program at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

On another note, National has made a decision not to have any future national conventions because the past four have operated at a financial loss. We are sad to see these go but understand the necessity.

Our next business meeting will be in Santa Fe **Sunday, Feb. 2**. This weekend consists of a business meeting and lobbying on **Monday, Feb. 3**, at the Round House to urge our legislators take action on issues impacting women. There is strength in numbers and **WE NEED YOU**. You will be provided with the tools and all the information needed to connect with your state legislators.

2020 will be the year of celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women's right to vote. Many events will be occurring throughout the state. What a great opportunity for you to get involved or join in on the celebrations.

Our next New Mexico **State Convention** will be in Las Vegas, NM April 17-18, 2020 celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage. More information will be shared throughout the coming months. Another great opportunity to become involved.

Hope to see you all there.

*Beverly Chambers and Sylvia Fink*  
AAUW-NM co -presidents

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## [Vacant Leadership Team Positions for 2020-2022](#)

Please consider being nominated or nominating a fellow member to serve on the Leadership Team through one of these positions:

### **Elected positions:**

Co-President  
Membership Chair(s) [Second Vice-President]

### **Appointed Chairs**

Awards  
Diversity  
International Interest  
Media Relations  
Website Manager

Positions are for 2-year terms. Job descriptions are available at the AAUW-NM website. Go to the link and click on Vol. II which contains the Job descriptions for these offices.

<https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/about/policies-procedures/>

You can nominate another person or self-nominate by notifying Kathie Davis [kadkathryn@gmail.com](mailto:kadkathryn@gmail.com)

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## [Proposed AAUW NM Strategic Plan](#)

**Education and Training:** addressing barriers and biases that hinder advancement of women: NM focus areas.

- Enforcement of Title IX
- NCCWSL recruitment
- Advocacy for Education K – 12 and beyond
- Fundraising for AAUW programs

**\*Economic security:** ensuring livelihoods for women. NM focus areas

- Start Smart and Work Smart
- NMFPWA

**Leadership:** closing the gender gap in leadership opportunities. NM Focus areas.

- Education of public at large on gender and racial gaps for opportunities
- STEM careers for women and girls.

**Governance & Sustainability:** ensuring the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW

well into the future. NM focus areas.

- Inclusion and diversity
- Member recruitment and retention
- Mentoring and training
- Flexible structure within required bylaw

*\*This was the highest rated strategic area at February LTM*

### Goals revised format

#### Education and training:

- Support continued vigorous enforcement of Title IX to ensure that our schools are free from discrimination on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX. The National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE), chaired by AAUW, released the new report *The IX at 45: [Advancing Opportunity through Equality in Education](#)*, which discusses the progress made under Title IX and barriers to its full implementation. (*click on the link for full report*)
- Identify and support New Mexico women students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).
- Support the successful AAUW-NM Lobby Corps with continued visibility and increased member participation in all lobbying activities.
- Continue to support AAUW Funds.

#### Economic Security:

- Continue expansion *Start Smart* at NM institutions of higher education. Continue promoting *Work Smart* program in New Mexico.
- Continue to monitor *New Mexico Fair Pay for Women Act* and advocate for adoption of Regulations when appropriate.

#### Leadership:

- Encourage branches to make STEM a program priority by creating one program and/or activity on STEM issues as they affect women and girls; and support the state Tech Trek, June 2020 at New Mexico Tech in Socorro with funds or volunteers.

#### Governance & Sustainability:

- Actively pursue branch and statewide membership increase through the *Member-Get-A-Member, Shape the Future and Give-A-Grad-A-Gift* campaigns and student memberships. Explore the Shape the Future option of having public event meetings that are that are advertised to the public during which people can join for half (\$24.50) the national dues and the branch can earn one free membership for every 2 of these new members.
- Promote [“In it for Life: AAUW’s Life Membership Campaign.”](https://www.aauw.org/resource/in-it-for-life/)  
<https://www.aauw.org/resource/in-it-for-life/> or *click link*
- Promote continued excellent statewide member communication and officer training using Go-To-Meetings, email, the *Roadrunner*, AAUW-NM and branch websites, open Leadership Team Meetings and participation in state, “regional” and national activities. Continue to develop communication via social networking on Twitter and Facebook.
- Seek new college and university partner members and student memberships with the current \$175 new and renewing member C/U Partner fees; and \$18.81 graduate student dues and free E-affiliate undergraduate student memberships.

- Maintain financial strength through responsible budgeting, vigilance, dues adjustment, conservative fiscal practice and timely payment of bills and reimbursement of officers.

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**Get your year-end deduction for 2019 tax reporting.  
Donate online to AAUW Tech Trek: [Tech Trek](#)**

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## AAUW NM Public Policy 2020

**By: Pamela Herndon**

I am honored to serve as Co-Chair of AAUW-New Mexico Public Policy Committee. AAUW's public policy priorities underscore our mission to **advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy**. At the top of our public policy initiatives in 2020 is ensuring that every woman is paid fairly for her work. It is time to eliminate the observance of equal pay days showing that it takes women, in general, sixteen months to be paid what men are paid when both are doing the same or similar work. **2020** has been designated as ***The Year of the Woman***. In 2020, our focus will be on advocating for women to get paid in 12 months what men get paid in 12 months when both are doing the same or similar work.



We are making significant strides in New Mexico toward fair pay for women with the passage of the *Fair Pay for Women Act*. (See NMSA 1978, § 28-23-1 et seq.) After legal challenges to determine whether women who work for state governmental entities are subject to the Fair Pay for Women Act, the New Mexico Court of Appeals confirmed that state governmental entities are subject to the Fair Pay for Women Act when the court declined to grant a writ of certiorari in the case. See *Wolinsky v. New Mexico Corrections Department*, No. A-1-C-35762. We are looking forward to seeing more women challenge whether they are receiving fair pay.

The upcoming New Mexico legislative session will be a **30-day session**. The focus will be on the budget for the State. We look forward to seeing what types of AAUW focused policy issues may arise in either the New Mexico State House of Representatives or the Senate. We will provide a briefing of such legislation, if any, in the next newsletter.

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## Political vs. Partisan: A Guide to Your AAUW Advocacy Actions

(Note: click on the blue links for more information)

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization that promotes equity for women and girls, and we have

a [long herstory of creating social change through public policy efforts](#).

Because this work is often done within the political world, there is sometimes confusion about AAUW's political work versus our nonpartisan stance.

Our work has always been political but has never been partisan. Values influence our work, but what is the line between being political and being partisan? Political work can be characterized by shared values, working toward a common goal, and an end result that is best for the community as a whole. Put simply, being political is a way to influence legislation and regulation through government or public affairs, while partisan activities have a firm adherence to a party, faction, or person.

For example, AAUW believes [there is a gender pay gap](#) and that we should do something to address it. AAUW believes [sexual assault is a big problem on campuses](#) that undermines women's access to equal educational opportunities. These





are political positions, but we work to solve them in a nonpartisan way. We'll work with any policy makers who share our goals — even if they differ with us on another facet of the AAUW [Public Policy Priorities](#).

When members take advocacy actions in the name of AAUW, those actions must be political rather than partisan. Here are some things to keep in mind when determining if your actions are political or partisan:

**DO:**

- Remain nonpartisan. Do not endorse candidates in partisan races.
- Work on issues guided by our values and mission, including taking positions on ballot initiatives that are in line with AAUW's Public Policy Priorities.
- Engage with candidates and elected officials from all major parties equally, making sure questions are phrased in a neutral manner.
- Encourage voter registration for everyone, regardless of their political persuasion.

**DO NOT**

- Expressly advocate for or endorse any particular partisan candidate.
- Encourage voter registration for a particular party.
- Share AAUW membership lists with campaigns or political parties.
- Fundraise for partisan candidates or coordinate any election activity with a campaign or political party.

AAUW is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, and most AAUW state-level organizations and branches have a 501(c)(4) tax status. In order to protect this tax status, there are rules that must be followed. Be sure to know the tax status of your branch, and always check your local election laws before hosting or promoting an event.

For more detailed policies, information about your branch's tax status, or help determining whether your action is political or partisan, contact [VoterEd@aauw.org](mailto:VoterEd@aauw.org).

By: [Elizabeth Holden](#)

Type: [FAQs](#)

Role: [Public policy](#)

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## [International Interest Report](#)

Respectfully submitted by **Lynn Heffron**, Chair

The UN World Women's report, "2019-2020 Families In A Changing World," provides key data on what is occurring in families around the world. General statements on some of the studies findings are below. Please note, statements are quoted directly from the report.

In 2017 alone, 16.2 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes by persecution, climate-related disaster, protracted conflict and other types of violence, a record-breaking figure for the fifth year in a row.

Overall, women are delaying marriage, with a small percentage opting not to marry. Cohabitation is widespread in several regions. Child and early marriage remains a serious problem and adolescent birth rates remain high in a number of regions, particularly among those from the lowest-wealth strata.

Violence against women and girls persists at astonishingly high levels. While only a handful of countries had laws to criminalize domestic violence in the early 1990s, data from 2018 shows that 76% of countries (144 out of 189 countries and territories) now have such laws. Some 30% of women worldwide who have ever been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner over their lifetime.

For women, having their own resources—such as owning assets or receiving income from a paid job or through social protection—puts them on a more equal footing with men in their intimate relationships, strengthens their bargaining position within families and enables them to exit partnerships if they so choose.

In terms of women's equal rights and voice in marriage and the family, in 19 countries and territories (out of 189), the law explicitly requires women to obey their husbands; in 17 countries and territories, married women are not allowed to travel outside of the home in the same way as married men; and in 37 countries and territories, married women are not allowed to apply for a passport in the same way as married men.

The global population is aging. In 2019, people over the age of 60 account for about one-eighth of the global population, which is expected to increase to about one-fifth in 2050. For older women, having their own income or assets is critical in securing an adequate standard of living. In 2017, women represented 54% of those aged 60 years or over globally and more than 60% of those above age 80.

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## Member Recognized

On October 31, **Lynette Schurdevin** (on the left of the photo), President of the Albuquerque Branch of AAUW was presented with the **New Mexico Library Association Leadership award**. **Sylvia Fink**, on the right, NM AAUW co-president attended the event with Lynette. The award is given to librarians who have rendered outstanding service beyond the local community. Lynette was recognized for her efforts to advocate for all libraries in the NM Municipal League, founding the Public Library Directors SIG within NMLA, serving as the NMLA Chapter Councilor in ALA, actively participating in the ALA's Libraries Transform initiative, and contributing to the OCLC Americas Regional and Global Councils.

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## AAUW's Five Star Program

This fall, National rolled out a new 5 Star Recognition Program designed to both encourage and showcase branches and states that align their activities with AAUW's mission-driven initiatives. The program runs from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. The goal is to bolster support for National's strategic plan and highlight success in promoting that plan.

The program works at both the state and branch levels, but since many state goals piggy-back on achievements at the branch level, we'll focus on branch criteria here. Stars will be awarded for five criteria: programs, advancement, communications & external relations, public policy & research, and governance & sustainability.

### **1. Programs**

To earn a star, branches need to host at least 3 programs related to strategic plan focus areas and complete the community resource mapping exercise. Program suggestions include:

- hosting Work Smart Online training (or co-hosting Start Smart training);
- pairing reading suggestions from Operation Equity (<https://www.aauw.org/resource/operation-equity/>) with action projects such as holding a sign-up drive for the Two-Minute Activist, sending students to NCCWSL, or following up on Title IX compliance in your community; and
- hosting a panel discussion on women and leadership, perhaps featuring "Problems at the Peak," AAUW's latest research on workplace issues limiting their leadership, which is due out in November. However, any program that focuses on the barriers/biases that compromise women's educational advancement, economic security, or leadership opportunities would qualify.

The community resource mapping exercise entails completing an online form (<https://www.aauw.org/resource/community-resource-mapping-form/>) that will help AAUW identify potential resources in your community, both individuals and organizations, with whom to partner in meeting strategic goals, such as closing the gender pay gap.

### **2. Advancement**

This criterion focuses on fundraising and membership retention. Two requirements must be met, which could include

- shifting branch giving by 50% from AAUW's endowed fellowships/grants to its greatest needs category (fund #9110) or to one of its three strategic plan focus areas—education & training (fund #4450), economic security (fund #4449), or leadership (fund

#4452),

- retaining 90% of branch membership, or
- increasing [Legacy Circle](#) members by 10%.

### 3. Communications & External Relations

This is the simplest star to achieve: put a link to Work Smart Online on the homepage of your branch website along with a brief explanation of the training. For those into social media, another option is to make monthly posts related to the training and to AAUW's economic security focus area (e.g., closing the gender pay gap).

### 4. Public Policy & Research

To earn a star in this criterion, branches need to (1) have a public policy chair, (2) host or co-host a meeting with your state legislators, and (3) host at least one public event at which you explain and collect sign-ups for the Action Network (aka, "Two-Minute Activist").

### 5. Governance & Sustainability

To earn a star here, branches need to have a strategic plan that aligns with state and National strategic plans and have a succession plan to ensure continuity between current and future branch leaders. If your branch doesn't have a strategic plan, you can create one based on the state's plan that Sylvia sent out after the fall LTM.

### Reporting Progress

Progress toward earning stars is reported online ([www.aauw.us/fivestar](http://www.aauw.us/fivestar)), with branch presidents or facilitators, treasurers, membership chairs, and program chairs having access to the 5 Star Recognition Program's online portal. Officers must be logged in on the AAUW website in order to submit progress. Examples of possible documentation include URLs for branch websites posting a link to Work Smart Online, the date of your meeting with state legislators and attendee names, a link to your branch's strategic plan, and the name of your public policy chair.

### Recognition

So what do you get for your stars? Branches earning 3 stars will be recognized on National's website and in monthly online reports. Branches earning 4 stars will be showcased in national communications. Branches earning 5 stars will receive an online briefing by senior AAUW leaders. And for states that earn 5 stars and have 75% of their branches earning 4 or 5 stars, Kim Churches or Julia Brown will speak at one of their events.

That's a quick rundown of the 5 Star Program. For full details, go to the program's website ([www.aauw.us/fivestar](http://www.aauw.us/fivestar)) and view the slides from September 24 (when the program was rolled out) or watch the rollout webinar itself. That website is also where the branch officers listed above (and logged in) will find the portal for submitting achievements and tracking branch progress. If you have questions about the program, send them to [fivestar@aauw.org](mailto:fivestar@aauw.org).

Let's give the 5 Star Program a whirl and see how many stars we can earn. We'll do a stock take on our progress at the Winter LTM in February.

*Judy Prono & Rocky Lara, Program Co-Chairs*

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## [From AAUW CEO, Kimberly Churches](#)

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, the **power of women** is on full display.

Maybe it's that there are so many women in the race — the largest number in history — or because the candidates are eager to earn our support. Whatever the reason, the issues that matter most to us are *finally* getting attention.

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn't endorse specific candidates. But that doesn't mean we're not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. Indeed, we have a long history of championing policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace.

So, in the months ahead, AAUW will be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues: (*click on the blue links for more information*)

1. **Equal Pay for Equal Work.** To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal [Paycheck Fairness Act](#) and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.
  2. **Investing in Education.** Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in [STEM education](#), protect [Title IX](#) and make education a top national priority.
  3. **Reducing Student Debt.** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion [educational debt](#). Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.
  4. **Strengthening Social Security.** Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits. Our lawmakers need to [address the retirement wage gap](#) women face.
  5. **Implementing Paid Leave.** The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave. Let's [adopt policies](#) to give workers paid time off for illness and caregiving.
- You know how much is at stake in the next election. So, please, do what you've done in the past: **Tune in, get involved, make your voices heard** — and ensure that we harness the power of women to drive the national agenda.
- With gratitude for all you do to guarantee a brighter future for women and girls,  
*Kimberly Churches, CEO*
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## July 2019- June 2020 Remaining Calendar

- Dec. 15     Deadline: nominations for AAUW-NM officers to Nominating Committee Chair  
 Dec. 31     Deadline: Career Development Grants  
 Dec. 31     Postmark deadline for AAUW Funds contributions for year
- Jan. 10     Deadline: Selected Professions Fellowships  
 Jan. 15     Deadline: International Project Grants  
 Jan./Feb. TBD Lobby Corps Meetings in Albuquerque/Bernalillo  
**Feb. TBD    Winter State Leadership Team Meeting in Santa Fe**  
**Feb. TBD    Legislative Day - Santa Fe, NM**
- Feb. 15     Deadline for Spring *Roadrunner*
- March      Women's History Month**  
*Mar. 5      Asian American women's Equal Pay Day*  
*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. 2      Equal Pay Day*  
**Apr. 17-18 AAUW-NM Convention and Leadership Team Meeting in Las Vegas**  
 (Files & handbooks updated by officers for successors)
- May 15     Deadline for Summer *Roadrunner*  
 May 30     Start entering new state & branch officers in National MSD  
 Jun. 30     Deadline for entering new state & branch officers to MSD  
 May/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.

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## Branch News

### Las Cruces Branch Report



Our branch began the 2019-20 year with many activities and opportunities for our members to be engaged in advancing our mission “to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.” We are very happy to announce members who have accepted leadership positions: **Sherry Eichorn** has assumed the role of Secretary; **Jacque Schur** has agreed to take on the role of PR/Media Coordinator and **Deanise Marta** has taken on the responsibility of Social Media Coordinator. Many thanks to them for serving our branch in important roles.

At our October General Meeting, our Las Cruces branch member **Dr. Allie Williams**, AuD, [Expert Hearing Care](#), presented crucial information regarding protecting and improving hearing. Allie presented research from Johns Hopkins and other leading universities that shows that untreated hearing loss results in harmful structural and cognitive changes in the brain. Allie offered free consultations to branch members – a terrific and very generous opportunity.

For members who are on Facebook, we placed a few photos of **Pamelya Herndon's** Fall Leadership Team Meeting presentation, “Advancing Women’s Economic Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” Please visit and like our page at [www.facebook.com/AAUWLasCruces](http://www.facebook.com/AAUWLasCruces) . Encourage your friends to "Like" us also. We welcome information from you to share on our page as well.

This entire year we will be celebrating the centennial of the passage and ratification of the **19<sup>th</sup> Amendment** that granted women the right to vote nationwide. In August our branch joined the Las Cruces **2020 Suffrage Alliance**, which was convened by the League of Women Voters, and recently we created a branch **Task Force** to help plan collaborative activities for February 22, 2020 at the downtown Plaza and on **August 22, 2020** celebration at the Farm and Ranch Museum. The alliance’s goals are to:

- communicate the history of suffrage and constitutional amendments related to voting rights from diverse and inclusive perspectives
- connect the history to current voting activities
- take action to empower voters (especially related to gender equity and public safety)
- promote/expand our democracy
- build leadership capacity

We are very appreciative of AAUW-NM’s project grant to our branch to support these activities.

Several of our members have volunteered to serve on **Planning and Goals Group** to help us establish branch goals for the next two years. We are using the national and state plans to help guide our discussions and prioritize our goals.

*Respectfully submitted by – Christa Slaton and Laura Bemis, Co-Presidents*

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## Las Vegas Report

Greetings from northern New Mexico, where AAUW is alive and well! Our opening event this fall was a wine and cheese party held at the Diamond Ave. historic rock home of AAUW member Jan Beurskens. If that doesn’t sound interesting and enticing, I don’t know what does; and her home is indeed interesting! There were great conversations catching up with each other and getting acquainted with new members and guests.

As you know, AAUW Las Vegas is hosting the **2020 Spring Convention and we’re beginning planning so please mark your calendars for April 17-19 to be in Las Vegas** for that. A block of rooms is being set aside for us at the [Plaza Hotel](#), and our programming will continue the marvelous work begun by the Las Cruces Branch last spring of celebrating amazing women. We’ll focus, of course, on the women who fought for and won our right to vote. I expect you might even meet some of those women face to face! We’re looking forward to having you in Las Vegas once again.

The Las Vegas Branch is looking at possible **new fundraisers**. We have done our used book sale for **MANY** years and the community enjoys it as do we. We’ve been successful in funding many scholarships for NMHU women students. However, we’re beginning to feel that schlepping heavy boxes of books may not be the best activity for many of our

aging (or perhaps aching!) backs. Our enterprising treasurer, **Conni Reichert**, has been in touch with many of you, our New Mexico Branch Sisters, for ideas you have explored and executed for fundraisers and we thank you for sharing your creativity and enthusiasm for what you've done. We'll contemplate new directions for fundraising at our November meeting. Thank you all for sharing with us.

We were delighted to have **Marie Johnson, AAUW-NM Diversity Chair**, speak at our October meeting. WOW, what a dynamo she is! Marie's presentation gave us much to think about in terms of who we are, how we perceive ourselves, who we want to be, how we want to be perceived, and what steps we might take to get there. You know you have experienced something truly inspiring and engaging when people stand around the room in twos and threes talking intently to each other after the meeting is over, seemingly unaware of the late hour or the notion of going home! Thank you, Marie.



*Respectfully submitted by Karyl Lyne, President*

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## Silver City Report

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our 2019-2020 Kick-off meeting at Silver City's Conservatory of Dance Studio. Melinda Shaner, Branch member and owner of the studio, provided refreshments and entertainment by several of her enchanting young dance students. After introductions of attendees, co-Presidents Karen Love and Adrienne Dare presented outgoing co-President **Mikki Jemin** with a gift and a certificate of recognition for her leadership the last several years. All members were presented with the new 2019-2020 Yearbook that includes a Branch history, calendar of events, and member profiles. We also provided an overview of the upcoming programs for the year.



Our October program was a presentation by three of our members, **Siah Correa Hemphill, Corina Castillo and Marivel Medel**, who are recent graduates of Emerge New Mexico. This program aims to increase the number of women leaders from diverse backgrounds in public office through recruiting, training, and providing a powerful network. The presenters described how the Emerge NM training provided not only specific tools for running for office, but also an extensive network of Alumnae, Emerge Board, and Advisory Council members who can help with questions and

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Branch members gathered at a local restaurant for Happy Hour. These events have been one way for members to socialize as well as introduce new or potential members in an informal setting.



Our November 10<sup>th</sup> program was presented by **Marie Johnson**, AAUW-NM Diversity Chair. Marie's discussion on *The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and Diversity: What it Means for Us Today* was a resounding success with an engaged audience of Branch members and several other community members. The Centennial anniversary of the struggle for women's rights more than ever is critical in our politically charged climate. The need to get out the vote for ourselves and our allies was stressed. The audience was so interested in Marie's 18-minute TED-like talk that they would have wanted even more!

After the presentation light refreshments were shared while we engaged in reading individuals' name tags that did NOT have a name but instead an element of their identity, such as "I grew up on a farm". This led to interesting discussions. Also, we gained at least three new members at the meeting (and possibly more)!

Our Holiday Fundraising Party scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> will raise scholarship money for a woman at Western New Mexico University who has returned to college after an educational break. In addition to having a fun party we will be supporting a woman in need. What could be better?

We're off to a good start in organizing our annual *Expanding Your Horizons Conference*, scheduled for February 22, 2020. The conference encourages girls in grades 5 – 8 from the four southwest counties of New Mexico to pursue STEM education and careers. We aim to involve more and more of our members in this flagship project that serves hundreds of area girls annually.

During December, *Expanding Your Horizons* will be a featured organization for community fund-raising through a program at our local food co-op. Not only will we receive much-needed funding, but the event serves to raise community awareness of our STEM conference.

Our Branch is currently in the process of adding several new members, including through AAUW's Gift-a-Grad program. We look forward to continued growth.

*Report submitted by Co-Presidents Karen Love and Adrienne Dare*

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## [Important Links to AAUW Resources](#)

### **Advocacy**

For Public Policy, please email [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org) or dial 202.785.7793  
Become a Two Minute Activist <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

### **Donate to AAUW**

Online <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/>  
By Mail: AAUW, Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045  
Contribution Report Form (CRF) for states/branches: <https://www.aauw.org/resource/contribution-report-form-crf/>

### **Fellowships and Grants**

Applications open August 1<sup>st</sup> <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>

Help: [aauw@applyists.com](mailto:aauw@applyists.com); 866.795.4892, M-F, 8-5pm, CT



## Leader Resources

[Member Volunteer Position Descriptions](#)

[Member Services Database](#), Report officers, contributions, dues, updates, and IRS taxes online!

[National Leadership Directory](#)

[Shape the Future NEW Member Recruitment Discount](#)

## Membership

Join National Only <https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

Join AAUW Near You [https://ww2.aauw.org/branch\\_locator/index.php](https://ww2.aauw.org/branch_locator/index.php)

Select your state, the branch, then **JOIN**. Rates vary and include national membership!

## Member Benefits

For members <https://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/>

For [college/university faculty/staff](#) and [students](#)

Website Support [site-resources@aauw.org](mailto:site-resources@aauw.org)

### AAUW-New Mexico Public Policy

2019-2021

AAUW-NM supports AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The work of AAUW builds upon responsible public participation and our priorities provide a basis for AAUW members' actions. Our positions are shaped by our commitment to being nonpartisan and fact-based and acting with integrity. We strive for our work to be inclusive and intersectional by collaborating with diverse allies and coalitions to **achieve equity for all**.

AAUW-NM supports the National Public Policy Program and understands that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. We believe high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality. We promote equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children, Native American students, and students of color.

We recognize gun violence as a health issue. We support campaign finance and ethics reform and an Independent Redistricting Commission. We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants; safe, livable, affordable housing; a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; separation of church and state; the right to privacy; a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary; and prevention of all forms of human trafficking. We support all efforts to preserve the rights guaranteed in the New Mexico Constitution.

#### **Biennial Action Priorities**

**To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls AAUW-NM advocates**

- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
- Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
- Increased support for and protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and

### AAUW NM Leadership Team

2019-2020

#### **Elected positions:**

Co-Presidents

Beverly Chambers

[flagbab@mac.com](mailto:flagbab@mac.com)

Sylvia Fink

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

Co-VP Programs

Roxanne Lara

[laralaw@windstream.net](mailto:laralaw@windstream.net)

Judyth Prono

[djprono@msn.com](mailto:djprono@msn.com)

VP-Membership

Claudia Poglitsch

[cpoglitsch@yahoo.com](mailto:cpoglitsch@yahoo.com)

Finance Chair

Christa Slaton

[slatocd@ad.nmsu.edu](mailto:slatocd@ad.nmsu.edu)

Secretary

Judy McGuire

[judymcguire2@gmail.com](mailto:judymcguire2@gmail.com)

Academic Chair

Mary Sandford

[M\\_sandford47@hotmail.com](mailto:M_sandford47@hotmail.com)

Public Policy Chair

Pamelya Herndon

[kwhlawcenter.org](http://kwhlawcenter.org)

Immediate Past President

Helena Whyte

[mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com)

Nominations Chair

Kathie Davis

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

**Vacant offices:**



postsecondary education, including strong promotion of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, and comprehensive sexual health education

- Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations
- Support for practices that halt the flow of students from schools to prisons, including reforming school disciplinary practices that disproportionately punish girls and students of color
- Increased number of instructional days for K-12
- Early childhood development initiatives and programs for students with disabilities
- Reasonable and fair capital outlay expenditures
- Freedom from bullying, harassment, and sexual assault
- Effective teen pregnancy and dropout prevention programs

**To achieve economic security for all women, AAUW-NM advocates:**

- Pay equity fairness in compensation and benefits
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, free from systemic barriers and biases, including vigorous enforcement of employment discrimination statutes
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities for women of all backgrounds
- Greater availability of and access to benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care and paid family, medical, and sick leave
- Programs that provide women with education, training and support for success in the workforce, including non- traditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization
- Access for all women to the full range of health care services to ensure economic security
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage

**To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW-NM advocates:**

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expansion of voting rights
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care and comprehensive family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
- Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' issues
- Freedom in the definition of self and family and a guarantee of civil rights for all family structures
- Access to well-regulated state guardianship of seniors, including strong oversight of eldercare
- Passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Any attempt to revoke or change the NM Constitutional Amendment will become a priority for action.

Public Policy Priorities update and changes Adopted at the annual meeting April 28, 2019

AAUW Funds Chair

**Appointed positions:**

[Awards Chair](#)

Sheila Portillo

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

[Branch Projects Grants Chair](#)

Helena Whyte

[mozden08@aol.com](mailto:mozden08@aol.com)

[Governance Chair](#)

Phyllis Ludi

[pcludi@cybermesa.com](mailto:pcludi@cybermesa.com)

[College/Univ. Chair](#)

Cassie Marrs

[marrs.cassie@gmail.com](mailto:marrs.cassie@gmail.com)

[Diversity Chair](#)

Marie Johnson

[majohnson50@gmail.com](mailto:majohnson50@gmail.com)

[Historian](#)

Shila Marek

[shila.marek@gmail.com](mailto:shila.marek@gmail.com)

[Newsletter Editor](#)

Judy McGuire

[judymcguire2@gmail.com](mailto:judymcguire2@gmail.com)

[Parliamentarian](#)

Nancy Scheer

[nscheer1226@msn.com](mailto:nscheer1226@msn.com)

[Website Manager](#)

Becca Galves

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

[Registered Agent](#)

Nancy Scheer

[Nscheer1226@msn.com](mailto:Nscheer1226@msn.com)

**Vacant appointments:**

International Interest Chair

Media Relations Chair

**AAUW**

Founded in 1923

**Mission:**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy

**AAUW-NM Focus:**

"Empowering Women to change their lives"

AAUW NM

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Editor: Judy Mcguire [judymcguire2@gmail.com](mailto:judymcguire2@gmail.com)

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