



# AAUW NM Summer Roadrunner

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



**Beverly  
Chambers  
Co-President**

**Sylvia  
Fink  
Co-President**



## From Our Co-Presidents:

To those who came to the Leadership Team Meeting (LTM), Lobby Day and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Celebration, thank you for your time and commitment. We will attempt in the future to **not** schedule on Super Bowl Sunday. The photo to the right is from the Winter LTM. (Photo from LTM, including our featured speaker, Angel Charley)



### 2020 "Convenings"

Although there will be no in-person national convention or major convening in 2020, National understands the importance of bringing women together to network and support AAUW and its mission—and outreach will be designed with those goals in mind. As many of you know the last three AAUW National Conventions ran significant financial deficits. Therefore, there will be multiple "Convenings" throughout 2020, which will allow many more than the 1% who attended the last Convention to participate virtually.

The various virtual programs will spotlight the work members are doing on behalf of AAUW to ensure women and girls everywhere have equal opportunities to learn, lead and earn the salaries they deserve.

Kim Churches led the first "Convening" January 28<sup>th</sup>. This was the inaugural webinar in the AAUW 2020 convening series. It covered the equity priorities for this year at the federal, state and local levels. The material presented was timely and interesting. The broadcast is now available on the AAUW website at

<https://www.aauw.org/event/2020/01/2020-vision-the-gender-agenda/> The second convening will be April 14<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you all to view the recording of the 1<sup>st</sup> and view the live or recorded remainder through the year. For more information:

<https://www.aauw.org/convention/>

### Five Star National Recognition Program July 2019 – June 2021

The Five Star National Recognition Program rewards affiliates (states, branches, other organizations) for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and other initiatives that foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls.

The program is designed to promote cohesion between AAUW national and affiliates and increase understanding and implementation of the strategic plan goals. National recognition allows AAUW National to acknowledge and celebrate affiliates that advance AAUW's mission.

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/five-star-national-recognition-program/>

The initial June 2020 deadline for this program discouraged many States and Branches. Upon consideration, National has extended the deadline to **June 2021**. The Leadership Team discussed the extension and activities for participation. There is no downside to participation. We may or may not achieve 5 Stars, however, there are possibilities of achieving 1 or more. Branches as well as the State will need to report activities. Some Branches have already completed an activity that will count for a Star. At the winter LTM, the **motion to Participate passed unanimously**.

The Branches [nine of whom were represented at the LTM] will need to check off their activities and notify National when any of these are completed. The pdf presentation outlines the activities and provides links to "how to" information on the AAUW site.

<https://www.aauw.org/files/2019/07/5-Star-Webinar-9-24-2019.pdf>

AAUW NM, since Fall 2019 has already completed :

2 of 3 activities of Criterion 4: Public Policy & Research

1 of 2 activities of Criterion 5: Governance & Sustainability

Anticipates completing at least 1 in each of the other 3 categories by June 2020

Assist your Branch officers in completing some of these criterion in the upcoming months. AND, be prepared to report Branch progress at the April Convention! (See article towards the end of this *Roadrunner* for more information)

#### **Economic Security:**

AAUW has continued financial support for Work Smart online. A REMINDER: we must continue to promote the **Work Smart** program over the next four years. Continue to share with friends and family; and promote in your Branch area! Promote this program to men of color as well as all women. All women have gained only 1 or 2 cents, depending on race, on the dollar when compared to white men's wages in the last year. Check out the "Mobilize a Million Social Media Tool" page. <https://www.aauw.org/resource/mobilize-a-million-social-media/>

In addition to our Public Policy bill priorities, there are several other bills introduced this session concerning Economic Security. HB 44 New Mexico Work and Save Act has passed the House with 1 dissenting vote. There were six bills reducing or eliminating New Mexico income tax on Social Security, too many to effectively address this issue this session.

#### **AAUW Legacy Circle:**

Have any of you been considering joining the *AAUW Legacy Circle*? An increase in Circle membership is one of the Star criteria. Two new Circle memberships within New Mexico will not only provide us with a Star but also contribute to the future programming needs of AAUW.

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-legacy-circle/> provides more information.

Submitted,

**Sylvia Fink and Beverly Chambers**, AAUW-NM Co-Presidents

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## **2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan** *Accepted at the Winter LTM*

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

- Enforcement of Title IX
- NCCWSL [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders] 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 [*New Mexico Fair Pay for Women Act*]

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

\*This was the highest rated strategic area at February, 2019 LTM

### 2019 - 2021 Strategic Goals

#### 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.
- **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 2019 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 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. Promote “In It for Life: AAUW’s Life Membership Campaign.” <https://www.aauw.org/resource/in-it-for-life/>
- **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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## Lobby Day in Santa Fe Feb 3, 2020

### Report of the New Mexico State Public Policy Chair

The Lobby Days for AAUW were celebrated February 2 – 3, 2020 at the state capitol in Santa Fe, New Mexico in conjunction with the 30-day session of the New Mexico State Legislature. More than 30 AAUW members participated in the Lobby Days during the two-day celebration. The Lobby Day events began with a Leadership Training for members on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and concluded with a photo opportunity with the Speaker of the House, Brian Egolf. One of the many highlights of the first day occurred during lunch when the members of AAUW were honored with a keynote speech provided by **Angel Charley**, Acting Executive Director of the New Mexico Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.

Ms. Charley delivered a moving, impassioned speech about the challenges that Indigenous families are facing as they try to find resolution and closure to the hundreds of Missing and Murdered Native Women in New Mexico. Ms. Charley described the imbalance in the justice system that prevents tribal governments from prosecuting non-Natives who travel onto Native lands and commit crimes with the large number of Missing and Murdered Native Women who are never found and whose cases are never resolved. She also delivered a message of hope in looking for ways to collaborate with organizations like AAUW to help find a resolution to the issue, as well as other issues facing Native women. Ms. Charley described a world where the two organizations could work together to help raise the voices of Native women. In addition, Ms. Charley described the efforts of Indigenous women to put an end to trafficking on Native lands in an environment where no one seems to care about a trafficking issue that is skyrocketing to the detriment of Native women. An emotional question and answer period followed Ms. Charley’s presentation that ended with a solid determination for the two groups to work together in the future.

On Monday, February 3, 2020, members of AAUW, in collaboration with the New Mexico League of Women Voters and Santa Fe NOW, were honored on the Rostrum and in the Gallery of the New Mexico House of Representatives by our host Representative Melanie Stansbury. Despite her very busy schedule, Representative Stansbury took pictures with members of all three organizations and laid the groundwork for pictures to be taken with **Brian Egolf**, the Speaker of the House. After leaving the House of Representatives, the members of the Lobby Corps began visiting with Members of the House and Senate to discuss, and seek support for, the ten legislative priorities that AAUW identified for the 2020 legislative session. The ten legislative priorities were as follows:

1. **HB 16** – House Bill 16 would have created the Paid Family and Medical Leave Trust Fund that would have provided the financial support for a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program in New Mexico that would have paid an employee’s salary when an employee was away from work to bond with a newborn child, or care for a family member. The sponsors were Representatives Patricia Roybal Caballero and Christine Chandler. **The bill did not receive a message from the Governor and never cleared the hurdle of being determined germane by the House Rules and Order of Business Committee in a 30-day legislative session where the primary focus was the state’s budget.**



2. **HB 21-** House Bill 21 was focused on barring employers throughout the state from requiring an employee to sign an agreement that included a provision that prohibited the disclosure of the perpetrator who was accused of sexual harassment, sexual assault, discrimination or retaliation in the workplace, if the case was settled. The legislation did allow, however, settlement agreements to require confidentiality provisions when: (1) it is necessary to have such confidentiality pertaining to the monetary amounts of a settlement; or (2) if the employee requested confidentiality to prohibit disclosure of facts that could lead to identification of the claimant. **HB 21 passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the signature of the Governor.** Once signed into law the legislation is signed, it becomes effective to agreements entered into on, or after, May 20, 2020. The sponsor of the legislation was Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil.

3. **HB 25** – House Bill 25 was designed to amend the Human Rights Act to add employment accommodations and protections for employees during pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions, when the employer could do so without causing an undue burden on the business. The sponsors of the legislation were Representative Gail Chasey and Senator Elizabeth Stefanics. **HB 25 passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the signature of the Governor.**

4. **HB 44-** House Bill 44 created the “New Mexico Work and Save Act,” that allowed for private sector and nonprofit employees, and self-employed individuals to participate in voluntary retirement savings programs, that were purchased through a web-based marketplace established and maintained by the New Mexico Work and Save Board. The sponsors of the legislation included Representatives Tomas E. Salazar, Christine Chandler, Gail Armstrong, and Phelps Anderson, and Senators Bill Tallman, Michael Padilla and Gabriel Ramos. **HB 25 passed both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the signature of the Governor.**

5. **HB 65** – House Bill 65 would have appropriated two million dollars (\$2,000,000) from the general fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2021 for existing school-based health clinics and for new school-based health clinics, including mobile clinic services. The sponsors were Representatives Liz Thomson, Christine Trujillo, Joanne Ferrary and Patricia Roybal Caballero. **The bill did not pass and failed to get out of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.**

6. **SB 13** - Senate Bill 13 was introduced to increase the minimum salary level for level 1, 2, and 3-A teachers by 15 percent if the teacher was licensed by the Public Education Department in the field of special education, and the bill was to provide funding for special education services. The sponsor is Senator Michael Padilla. **The bill did not pass and failed to get out of the House Rules and Order of Business Committee.**

7. **SB 44** – Senate Bill 44 would have appropriated \$300,000 from the general fund to the Department of Health for a Statewide perinatal service program. The sponsor was Senator Nancy Rodriguez. **The bill did not pass and failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee.**

8. **SB 47** – Senate Bill appropriated \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department to provide mentoring and tutoring services before and after school for elementary school students, statewide. The sponsor is Senator Nancy Rodriguez. **The bill did not pass and failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee.**

9. **SB 106** – Senate Bill 106 allows tenants who were victims of domestic violence or sexual assault to be released without penalty from their lease agreements. The person named in an order of protection could have been civilly liable for all unpaid rent, early lease termination fees, costs to repair damage to the premises and any reductions or waivers of rent previously granted to the resident who was the victim of domestic violence or sexual assault. The sponsor is Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez. **The bill did not pass and failed to get out of the Senate Finance Committee.**

10. **SM 8** - Senate Memorial 8, would have created the “Financial Abuse of Senior Citizens Task Force.” to study means of protecting New Mexico’s elderly as well as adults with disability from financial abuse perpetrated by strangers, acquaintances or family members. The sponsor is Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino. **The Memorial did not pass and**



failed to get a vote on the Senate floor.

In summary, 20% of the legislation we supported was passed during the 2020 legislative session. Most importantly, the two legislative bills that passed will have a tremendous impact on raising the well-being of women in New Mexico. Now, we need the help of everyone to call Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and ask her to sign **HB 21** and **HB 25**. The telephone number for the governor's office is (505) 476-2200.

If you are not a member of the Lobby Core, we invite you to join us as we work to advocate for good public policies for women and girls throughout the State of New Mexico. Please email me at [pamelyaherndon@gmail.com](mailto:pamelyaherndon@gmail.com) and let's talk about how you can become a member of the New Mexico AAUW State Lobby Core. We can begin talking about strategies and the type of legislation we will support over the summer as the state prepares for the 2021 Legislative Session.

With warmest regards,  
**Pamelya Herndon**, Chair  
New Mexico State Public Policy Committee  
American Association of University Women



Sylvia Fink, Pamela Herndon and Sonya Berg with NM Representative Brian Egolf, Speaker of the House



Sylvia Fink, Dana Middleton of NOW, Lynn Heffron, and Sonya Berg



NM Representative Chris Chandler, Judy Prono, Nina Thayer, and Alahna Weller. All are from Los Alamos.



AUWW NM along with the League of Women Voters participated in a "Tableing" event at the NM Roundhouse on February 6th to celebrate the 100th anniversary of New Mexico's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Thank you, **Sonya Berg** for orchestrating our part!

**New Mexico**  
ratified the  
**Nineteenth**  
**Amendment**  
on February 21, 1920.



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## Save the Date: RMRC

Rocky Mountain Regional Conference is held in even years by rotation among the member states. New Mexico held the 2016 meeting, Utah held 2018, Colorado is holding on behalf of Wyoming this coming June. Member states provide a "presentation" such as: a program from their state that could be replicated in another state. There are also invited speakers around a theme and general meetings focused on an AAUW issue. Think of it as a Convention without the business meeting. We should be receiving more specific info before April NM Convention.

For more information, click here: [RMRC](#)

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### 2020 AAUW NM Convention Las Vegas, NM Plaza Hotel April 17-19

## "Power of the Past...Force of the Future"

The AAUW Las Vegas Branch has been hard at work making plans for the 2020 AAUW NM Spring Convention: *Power of the Past, Force of the Future*. Some of you may remember the 2014 Convention in Las Vegas when you met 6 extraordinary women of Las Vegas—Fabiola Cabeza de Baca, Mari-Luci Jaramillo, a Harvey Girl, Dr. Meta Christy, Mela Leger and Adele Ilfield. At the 2020 Convention we hope to introduce you to four New Mexicans who played major roles in New Mexico in getting the vote for women. We hope you'll get into the act by bringing your suffrage white dresses/skirts and blouses, hats and purple, white and gold sashes to wear.

The Convention will once again be headquartered at the **Plaza Hotel** and meetings will be held on the **New Mexico Highlands University Campus**. As we celebrate the *Power of the Past...Force of the Future*, we'll be a bit like the two-faced Roman God, Janus, looking back in our history and forward to our future, drawing strength and inspiration from both.

We're delighted to let you know that the wonderful **Castaneda Hotel**, the first Harvey House on the Santa Fe Railway line, is now open and available for lodging, meals, drinks and tours. If you're interested in touring the Castaneda while you're in Las Vegas, you can book a tour with Southwest Detours (see the Convention Registration Form for more information).

We're also thrilled to let you know that **author, gender pay consultant, Ms. Magazine Money Editor, and Equal Time producer/host on KSFR public radio, Martha Burk, PhD.**, will be here to talk about the power and force of women's voices and votes. **Dr. Corrine Sanchez, Executive Director of Tewa Women United**, will share the story of the empowerment of Native American Women in Northern New Mexico. **Sarah Urech, Acting Director of the Omega Women's Leadership Center in Rhinebeck, New York**, will talk about doing power differently. Co-Presidents **Sylvia Fink** and **Beverly Chambers** will tell us What's New in AAUW; and **Judy Prono, AAUW-NM VP for Program**, will review AAUW's most recent research report, *Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers*. Is that a powerful and forceful line-up or what?

Go to the [Registration Form](#). (Click on the underlined "Registration Form" to the left) The Registration form also includes details about the convention and "things to do in Las



Vegas" You can register and pay online in a flash! (more information will be forthcoming)  
We want you to be in Las Vegas Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 17, 18 & 19, 2020, to explore the **Power of the Past and the Force of the Future!** See you soon!

**Karyl Lyne**, President  
AAUW-Las Vegas

## Open Board Positions

### Nominations:

**Kathie Davis**, Nominations Chair will be calling Branch Presidents for suggestions.

The following elected offices for 2020-2022 are open: Co-President, VP Membership, Secretary, AAUW Funds Chair.

Appointed officers for 2020-22 open are. AAUW-NM Awards chair, College/Univ. Chair, International Interest Chair, Parliamentarian, Website Manager, Media Relations.

Job descriptions are on the AAUW-NM website. <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/files/2019/11/Policies-Procedures-Vol-II.pdf>

If any readers are interested in these positions, please contact Kathie at

[kadkathryn@gmail.com](mailto:kadkathryn@gmail.com) or 575-639-0311



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## Little known "Tidbit" about the Suffrage Movement\*

*'A Note From Mom....Secures Women's Right to Vote'*

The road to women's suffrage in the United states was long and difficult. After the passage of the 19th. Amendment in 1919, the measure needed to be ratified by 36 states to become law. By the summer of 1920, the amendment's advocates were one state from victory. Unfortunately, almost all the southern states opposed the amendment, and Tennessee was poised to join them because of a 48 - 48 tie in the state legislature.

A 24-year-old man named Harry Burn, the youngest representative in the state, was expected to be among those to vote "nay" --he was even wearing a red rose in his lapel, the symbol of the anti-suffragists. However, on the morning of the Tennessee roll call, Burn received a letter from his mother, Phoebe "Miss Feeb" Burn. She implored him to "be a good boy" and support the measure. When Burn's name was called, he voted "aye" in a voice that was barely audible and yet shocking. He later declared, "I believe we had a moral and legal right to ratify" the amendment. He quickly fessed up to his mother's influence on his vote. "I know that a mother's advice is always safest for her boy to follow," he said, "and my mother wanted me to vote for ratification."



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Another example of how **ONE VOTE** can make a huge difference.

**Mary Berry**, Ph.D.  
Las Cruces Branch  
Past President, AAUW-NM

\*Source: February 2020 *Reader's Digest*, "Accidents That Changed History", p. 109

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## Branch News



### Silver City:

Current Branch efforts focus on preparations for our annual flagship project, the **Expanding Your Horizons** (EYH) Conference, scheduled for February 22nd. The conference, held on the campus of Western New Mexico University in Silver City, encourages girls in grades 5 – 8 from the four southwest counties of New Mexico to pursue STEM education and careers.

The day-long event features hands-on workshops led by women professionals in STEM fields, with this year marking the 27<sup>th</sup> time the event has been held.

Through a variety of fund-raising approaches, we have kept EYH completely fee-free for girls, including bus transportation from outlying areas, lunch, snacks, t-shirts, and backpacks with STEM-related items. During December, EYH was the featured organization for community fund-raising through a program at our local food co-op. In addition, we receive funding from various local businesses and organizations.

### Albuquerque

The Albuquerque Branch is selling commemorative note cards depicting images of the Women's Suffrage Centennial to raise money for Tech Trek.

### Carlsbad:

AAUW Carlsbad and the *New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering* has been hosting an *Expanding Your Horizons* event for about 6 years. The teachers at the Sixth Grade Academy select 50 girls to attend this half day STEM camp. It usually takes place on a Friday in October, the girls are bussed from their school to NMSU-Carlsbad, which is where the event takes place. Each girl is given a goody bag with various items donated from businesses around town. We offer 9-15 workshops and each girl attends 3. They are taught by women scientists from Los Alamos National Labs, Sandia National Labs, and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. We have also had a veterinarian, nurses and others volunteer to lead a STEM related class. After they attend their 3 workshops the girls are provided a lunch and we have a guest speaker. This event was free for all the girls who attended.

### Las Cruces:

For the 7th year, the Las Cruces Branch is hosting a career Exploration Conference for 6th grade girls on the morning of March 7th. **Girls Can!** is our signature community event and brings together professional women to show 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls from throughout Dona Ana County, careers that are possible in their future. This year different careers are showcased through 20 interactive "hands on" workshops. The girls receive a t-shirt, goody bag and breakfast snacks. They assemble together for short inspirational "Girls Can!" messages and then they go participate in three different workshops throughout the morning.. Concurrent workshops for the parents offer information on navigating the path to college, financial resources, social media/cyber bullying, and career opportunities for them and their children.

### Socorro:

**NM GRADS program in the Heart of New Mexico**-On January 14th 2020, an open

house event was hosted by AAUW-Socorro Branch to celebrate a program that positively impacts the lives of young adults and families throughout New Mexico. The NM GRADS (**G**raduation, **R**eality **A**nd **D**ual-role **S**kills) program has assisted 4,987 young parents from 36 high schools graduate over its 30 years. The goal of **GRADS** is to ensure that young mothers and fathers don't have to choose between parenthood or a quality life by pursuing their careers and educational goals. **GRADS** graduate Destiny spoke about how the program helped her to cope as a pregnant high school student. Five years later, she received her Bachelors of Science in Mathematics from NM Tech and is a graduate student; her son recently turned 5. **NM GRADS** program provided Destiny and many other young parents real support and skills. Over 83% of teen mothers enrolled in NM **GRADS** program received their high-school degrees, compared to only 53% of teen mothers nationwide. Out of 10 skill areas young parents learn, two are focused on employability and economic independence.

AAUW member **Cynthia Connolly** presented Jeanne Johnston, Executive Director of New Mexico's GRADS program, a \$1000.00 check for 2020 to fund scholarships. This is the second year that AAUW-Socorro has donated to this program.

The **GRADS** program began in 1989 under NM State Legislature funding as an in-school program for expectant and parenting teens and has expanded services to provide on-site child development centers, career readiness, youth leadership and fatherhood mentoring. Funding for the statewide program was provided by the NM legislature initially. **NM GRADS** has been supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant, which was awarded but not funded in the last cycle. The NM Legislature stepped in to continue the highly successful program. NM GRADS is currently applying for grants

**NM GRADS** program is administered and overseen by the NM Public Education Department but does not received direct funding from the School District budgets. School Districts directly benefit by the return of dropouts back to school and a reduction in repeat pregnancy. In 2019, NM GRADS recruited 68 dropouts back to school, which generated approximately \$284,977 for schools.

## Photo from Socorro NM GRADS open house

### Interested in learning more about NM GRADS program?

Visit their website; [www.nmgrads.org](http://www.nmgrads.org) to celebrate and learn the amazing way the multi-generational case management model is serving New Mexico families in to its 30th year.



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## Five Star Recognition Program

At our Winter Leadership Team Meeting in Santa Fe, we agreed to pursue National recognition through AAUW's Five Star Recognition Program. As noted, the program's deadline has been extended to **June 30, 2021**, so we have well over a year to meet the criteria for earning stars. And from the discussions in Santa Fe, many branches have already met some of those criteria and so should be enrolling in the program for credit. To recap, progress toward earning stars is reported online: go to [www.aauw.us/fivestar](http://www.aauw.us/fivestar). At the moment, only branch officers—president/facilitator, treasurer, membership chair, or program chair—can apply for stars. And these officers must log in as AAUW members to submit progress. On the Five Star website, you'll find an expandable list of Criteria and Resources for the program, followed by definitions of the recognition given for the number of stars earned. Beneath that is "Enter your Submissions here!" with an "Apply now" link: before clicking to apply, you must log in with your AAUW membership number and password.

The Five Star Criteria & Resources list defines the five categories for which you can earn stars and defines requirements for both branches and states. As you will see, many of state goals piggy-back on achievements made at the branch level, offering stars based on



percentages of branches that earn stars. The five recognition criteria are (1) Programs, (2) Advancement, which encompasses fundraising and member retention, (3) Communications & External Relations, (4) Public Policy & Research, and (5) Governance & Sustainability. The far right column under each criterion includes links to AAUW resources for earning a star. So National has really put a lot of information at your fingertips.

The program's goal is to encourage branches and states to align their programs and activities with National's strategic plan. The easiest starting point is under Communications & External Relations: put a link to Work Smart Online (<https://salary.aauw.org>) on the homepage of your branch website along with a brief explanation of the training. Given National's goal of training 2 million women to negotiate fair salaries for themselves by 2022, this star should be a no-brainer. You can also earn credit toward stars by hosting a Start Smart workshop, having a branch public policy chair, and taking signups for the Two-Minute Activist at any event you host that is open to the public. So some of the recognition requirements are pretty straightforward. All the information and links to get started are on the Five Star website. And if you have questions, you can send them to [fivestar@aauw.org](mailto:fivestar@aauw.org). — let's get with the program! Hope to hear of your progress when we **meet in Las Vegas for our 2020 State Convention, April 17-19.**

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



**Tech Trek** is a week-long, immersion, residential summer camp for up to 60 girls entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade focused entirely on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Top 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls from all over the state are nominated by teachers and selected by AAUW members from applications, essays and interviews. Our 7<sup>h</sup> year, **2020 Tech Trek** is June 14-20, 2020 at NM Tech, Socorro.

Although the full cost for the entire week is \$1,200 per camper, they only pay \$50 to attend. The balance of the \$80,000 budget is raised through corporate and individual donations. In 2019, individual donations comprised nearly 40% of the total dollars raised. Tech Trek NM is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Tax deductible donations can be made at [techtrek-nm.aauw.net](http://techtrek-nm.aauw.net). Click on the button: **Donate Now**. All major credit cards and PayPal are accepted. Alternately, checks, payable to AAUW Tech Trek-New Mexico can be mailed to **PO Box 251, Placitas, NM 87043-0251**

**\$\$\$ What does your money buy? \$\$\$**

- \$1,150 covers the cost of one camper for the week
- \$50 provided a scholarship for one camper's fee
- \$1,200 covers the cost of the stipend for one teacher
- \$350 covers room and board for one camper
- \$200 supports one dorm counselor
- \$45 covers the cost of the lab notebook, tote bag and flash drive for one camper

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## Report from Albuquerque Branch STEM Taskforce

### AAUW Tech Trek Camper Reunions

Since 2015, the Albuquerque Branch STEM Taskforce has hosted annual reunion events in Albuquerque for AAUW Tech Trek NM camper alumnae, inviting campers from all years, to a two hour event we arrange and hold on the UNM Campus in the Centennial Engineering Center. With our camper alumnae ages now spanning 13 thru 19 years old, this year we planned two separate reunions; one for more recent alumnae and another one for older alumnae.

Our older alumnae reunion on January 12 was for those who attended camp in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (current juniors or seniors in high school and high school graduates). The format was an informal reconnecting and networking event at Saggio's Restaurant across from UNM campus. Pizza and drinks were provided and sixteen alumnae attended, including alumnae from the Albuquerque area, Laguna, Las Cruces, Carlsbad and Gallup. Alumnae caught up, met alumnae from other years and informally shared current and future plans with Albuquerque Branch STEM Taskforce members. We also provided handouts with current STEM internship and research opportunities for interested alumnae.

On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted a reunion for camper alumnae who attended last year, in 2017 and 2018 and are now in 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Partnering with the Museum for Natural History & Science in Albuquerque, the reunion was held in the education annex of the museum. Parents and alumnae were welcomed by our emcee's for the event, AAUW member, Danielle Martin, from the Albuquerque Branch, and Deb Novak, Director of Education, at the Museum and also received background on AAUW, AAUW-NM, the Tech Trek junior counselor program and also the museum junior docent program. The reunion continued with just the campers and included an ice-breaker activity, STEM breakout sessions hosted by the education department of the museum, light refreshments, socializing, and watching camp videos, with much laughter and comments, from 2017-2019. The STEM activities included a "walking tour" on the surface of the moon using a floor map on loan from NASA, a hands-on Q&A with fossils, a National Geographic interactive exploration of the Elephant family tree and a show and tell of animal skulls from a Natural History cart that was led by a current junior docent who also happened to be a Tech Trek alumnae from 2018! Over 45 alumnae attended from all over the state and included girls from Des Moines to Grants to Cloudcroft. Museum admission was free this day (first Sunday of the month) and many families visited museum exhibits before, during and after the reunion. Personal connections and re-connections were made, information and opportunities were shared, and all this happened due to the hard work of the Abq STEM Task Force volunteers, Museum staff and volunteers, and alumnae and their parents!

### **Claudia Poglitsch**

Albuquerque Branch STEM Taskforce Member  
AAUW Tech Trek NM Volunteer & Visitor Coordinator

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## **AAUW NM Membership**

AAUW NM now has 494 Branch members with Las Cruces being the largest Branch and Carlsbad having the largest gain from 2019. Click here for the full membership report:

[Membership Report as of 2/20/20](#)

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### **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

### **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



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 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:**

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Finance Chair

Christa Slaton

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

Secretary

Judy McGuire

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Academic Chair

Mary Sandford

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

Immediate Past President

Helena Whyte

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

**Vacant offices:**

Co Pubic Policy Chair

Nominations Chair

AAUW Funds Chair

**Appointed positions:**

Awards Chair

Sheila Portillo

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

Branch Projects Grants Chair

Helena Whyte

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Governance Chair

Phyllis Ludi

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College/Univ. Chair

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Diversity Chair

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**Vacant appointments:**

International Interest Chair

Media Relations Chair

**AAUW**

Founded in 1923

- 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 Police Priorities update and changes Adopted at the annual meeting  
April 28, 2019

### **Mission:**

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

### **AAUW-NM Focus:**

"Empowering Women to  
change their lives"

### **Comments:**

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**AAUW NM**

**AAUW**

The *Roadrunner* is a quarterly publication of AAUW NM  
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