



## AAUW-NM Fall Roadrunner

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

**NOTE:** New Branch officers and email in the sidebar.

**Reminder:** AAUW Dues grace period ends September 30



**Helena Whyte, Co-President**



**Lynn Heffron, Co-President**

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### From our Co-Presidents:

AAUW has been integral to **Title IX** law and its regulation. 2022 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this landmark federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education. It affects everything from admissions and athletics to STEM training and sexual-harassment policies. You already support Tech Trek NM providing enhanced STEM training to girls and many of you also sponsor EYH and/or Girls Can programs. Do you support the local middle school, high school, or college girls' sports programs by attending and cheering at games? Have you noticed that there is little or no media coverage of women's college and professional sports until the championship rounds at the end of the season?

Why is it necessary to have a federal law for equal treatment? A recent tweet said "Polio is back and Roe is done. This is the worst time travel imaginable." AAUW strongly condemns the US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization*. AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about their own reproductive lives without government interference. The reach of some of the recent state anti-abortion laws into women's health and choices is frightening. Here is another recent tweet to consider and think about why the statement was necessary. From MommaT, "My teen daughter was asked by her doctor when she had her last menstrual period. She said 'it's regular, no need for dates.' When I asked her why the reply, she told me that "doctors

can no longer be trusted and they should become accustomed to not knowing". Welcome to the new America". Other tweets have told young women to stop using apps tracking their cycles because you never know who might be accessing their data.

So how can we ensure that there is no further rollback on the rights we have fought so hard to achieve? **GOTV** (Get Out The Vote) in November. Vote for the candidates that will protect your rights and who support AAUW Public Policy. Help to register new voters. Promote the use of early voting and absentee ballots to ensure that our voices are heard. Lighter voter turnout is usually seen during the mid-term elections. We cannot afford to let a minority (less than 50% voter turnout) determine your future and your daughters' and granddaughters' futures. Vote in November.

*Lynn Heffron and Helena Mozden, Co-Presidents*

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## **AAUW NM Fall Leadership Team** **Meeting in** **Gallup NM & the Navajo Nation** **Friday, Oct. 7 & Saturday,** **Oct 8, 2022**

The next LTM will be held on Friday, Oct. 7 from 3:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the University of New Mexico-Gallup campus. A catered dinner will follow the business meeting. We will then hear from guest speakers and a student panel.

Ms. Bobbie Shack, a member of the Zuni Pueblo, will speak about her current work with the NM PED and the importance of local teacher training. Dr. Michelle Lee of UNM-G's Advisement Department and a member of the Navajo Nation will speak about her dissertation work which addressed Navajo students' cultural values alongside UNM's institutional values.

On Saturday, Oct. 8 at 9:00 a.m. we will drive to Window Rock, AZ, the seat of the Navajo Nation government, and visit the Navajo Nation Museum, Library, and Zoo. Lunch at the Dine Restaurant will follow then to Navajo Nation's Veteran's Park to see the massive Window Rock formation.

There is no registration fee for this LTM, but each member will pay for her own meals. Please note there are discounted rates at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1530 West Maloney, just off Interstate 40, which features a heated indoor pool and restaurant.

**We hope you will enjoy this slate of activities for the LTM in early October.**

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We had a successful in-person camp at New Mexico Tech in Socorro on June 19-25, 2022. Fifty-two rising 8th-grade girls from thirty-two schools completed the camp. The 2022 camp photo shows the diversity of the campers, junior counselors, and counselors. Six junior counselors came from 2018 and 2019 camper alumnae. Six counselors came from 2014-2017 camper alumnae. We reached out to nominating teachers and nominating school staff to complete many of our staff openings for the first time. The camp nurse and dorm monitors came from this cohort.

We again had five core classes. Four of the core classes were instructed by returning teachers: *A Tour of the Stellar Lifecycle* (astrophysics), *A World in Motion* (Mechanical Engineering), *Girls in Cybersecurity* (Computer Science), and *Tech to Help My World*



(Engineering, Robotics, Coding). A nominating teacher taught a new core class: Waves and Lenses (physics, optics). Nominating teachers also served as adjunct teacher assistants.

Staff also came from all over New Mexico: Albuquerque, Alamogordo, Bernalillo, Carlsbad, Chimayo, Farmington, Laguna, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Ramah, Raton, Rio Rancho, Sandia Park, Santa Fe, Socorro, Tularosa, White Rock, and Zuni Pueblo.

**Thank you** to all who donate to Tech Trek NM, read essays, interview applicants, serve on the Tech Trek NM Board, and contribute as staff and volunteers at camp. Mary Byers, Las Vegas Branch, wrote us a camp song to the tune of the Notre Dame Fight Song.

*Yay, Yay for Tech Trek is here  
Say yes to progress and give a cheer  
We're the girls of science and math  
We see our future. We'll find our path.  
We're solving problems; we own the day,  
Watch out there Universe; we're on our way!  
We'll rocket out there. Let them know.  
Come on tomorrow. LET'S GO!*

Submitted by *Helena Whyte* and *Cheri Burch*



## **AAUW NM Open Leadership Positions**

The open AAUW NM positions' basic job descriptions are listed below. The time required varies throughout the year. All Chairs keep their own records to submit to Historian at end of the fiscal year. All Chairs administer their allocated budget, if any, and report to State Finance Officer. All Chairs will pass appropriate records to successors in a timely manner.

Contact Lynn Heffron or Helene Whyte if interested or for further information.

### **Fund Chair Responsibilities:**

- Oversees and coordinates any statewide fundraising efforts.
- Is knowledgeable about AAUW national fundraising and scholarship policies 501, and 600 to be a resource person to Branch Funds Chairs.
- Ensures the state and branches comply with AAUW Policies and IRS regulations.
- Honors donor's intent and submits donations using the AAUW Contribution Form [if not direct to National].
- Encourages Branches to honor donor intent and submission of donations in a timely manner.

- Participates in fundraising training, and shares training and fundraising ideas with Branches.

#### **Nominations:**

- Chairs Nominating Task Force and, in consultation with President, ensures geographic representation from around the state.
- Informs Branches of Officers to be elected or appointed, and requests suggestions for nominees.
- Distributes to nominees, before the election, a copy of the specific job description for which they have been nominated.
- Presents a list of nominations to the first business session of the State Convention.

#### **Historian:**

- Receives yearbooks, newsletters, and other materials from Branches for Archives.
- Maintains a list of former AAUW-NM Presidents and Conventions sites.
- Receives records of discontinued Branches for Archives.
- Delivers or ships records to Archives.

#### **Media Relations:**

- Coordinate media [newspaper, radio, television, and social media] coverage of statewide meetings, workshops, conventions, and any joint activities cosponsored by AAUW-NM. May arrange for interviews of officers or guest speakers with local media.
- Coordinates with the Website Manager for posting media items on the website.
- Forwards press releases, media postings, and publicity from National to Branches.
- Maintains a statewide media contact list.

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## **Programs Report**

As you plan your branch programs this year, take a look at the resources AAUW National provides in its **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) toolkit** for plug-and-play programming:

(<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/plug-play-dei-programming/>).

Since DEI is foundational to our mission and goals, it's a good idea to ensure that we are all on the same DEI page. The plug-and-play programs are designed to start a conversation on inclusion and offer best practices to promote it. They cover six topics:

- Understanding differences between diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Understanding unconscious bias
- Creating inclusive spaces
- Creating allyship
- Intersectionality identified
- Understanding social justice

The programs include step-by-step instructions, guidance for facilitators, short videos (under 3 minutes) to jump-start discussions, and meeting goals.

Depending on where your branch is when it comes to DEI “fluency,” one or more of the topics may be a good fit to start a dialogue. As we begin to transition to in-person programming this year, DEI discussions offer a helpful segue to reconnect with both AAUW members and values. If you stay with Zoom meetings, however, there is also a short video on hosting a virtual plug-and-play program (*see the end of introductory text to Plug and Play programming*). In either format, the diversity toolkit gives you program ideas ready to implement.

*Judy Prono, VP Programs*



# AAUW NM Convention Report

## "The ERA – 50 Years of Progress?"

### 1972 – 2022

#### **June 4 & 5, 2022, Socorro NM**

What a joy to see our state leaders in person once again. Masked and unmasked, we smiled, we laughed, we cajoled, and celebrated our continuing survival of the Covid pandemic and cheered our happiness to see each other once again. Thirty members from around the state attended our **annual state convention this year**. The AAUW Socorro Branch, under the leadership of President **Becky Reiss**, hosted AAUW NM the first weekend in June. Both the Leadership Team Meeting (LTM) on Friday and the convention were held in campus facilities at New Mexico Tech. Several others joined us for our awards banquet on Saturday night. Our keynote speaker AAUW National Board Chairman, **Julia Brown**, joined us for the entire weekend as well and led a spirited discussion on the *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision and its many other potential impacts for our closing Sunday event.

Our quorum having been met, on Saturday, Nominations Chair **Kathie Davis** presented the slate of officers to be elected and appointed. No nominations were made from the floor. Voting was unanimous at the close of the Saturday meeting to approve all nominations. Members also unanimously passed the fiscal year budget as presented by Finance Chair Shelley Rossbach and because of the largesse of our current funds of approximately \$23,000, we separate those funds into the operating budget and the special project's budget, which also was unanimously approved.

Several guest speakers followed who entertained many questions from our members and guests:

- **Becky Reiss** on "What Is A Woman? Gender, Genetics, and the ERA."
- 2022 St. John's College graduate Sandrina Mislitchi from Moldova and her emotional support dog Rhubarb described "Culture Clash."
- NMTech's **Mackenzie Best** spoke on "What Can We Learn from Bacteria in Extremely Acidic Environments?"
- **Shelley Rossbach** spoke on "Scenes from Behind the Fires," about how the Incident Command System is organized and how fires are managed.
- **Dr. Penelope Boston**, astrobiology and cave biology expert spoke on "What's A Nice Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?" She attests to how cave biology can inform rovers on what to look for as they cruise other planets.
- **Dr. Nelia Dunbar**, whose research and exploration in Antarctica has been ongoing for over 35 years, presented "A Woman's Place Is In.....Antarctica." She noted that women in the 70s talked about the hardships and barriers they had to break, and women in the 80s talked about the science they were doing. Her coverage of the continent's hot lava-filled volcanoes and ice co-existence baffled us all.

**Helena Whyte** closed our banquet with Legacy Awards given to outstanding AAUW NM members **Nancy Scheer** from Santa Fe and **Karyl Lyne** and **Sonja Berg**, both from Las Vegas. And as you know, as of this report, we have since lost Nancy after her several years of fighting cancer.

Submitted by: *Lynn Heffron*



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## **AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference**

From June 6 to June 18<sup>th</sup> this year, Arizona hosted the AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Conference via zoom. The conference is held every two years and includes Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, and New Mexico. This year's theme, "**Art of Women**," included presentations by Arizona guest speakers on The Heard Museum and Native American Artists, Women's Pioneer History, *Envisioning a Critical Change in Education to Match the Needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, and an evening of wine tasting.

These events were held separately over a period of almost two weeks. On the last day, Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the presidents of each member state gave a report on what has happened in their state for the last two years. Concerns over decreasing memberships were voiced by several states, among other Covid-related difficulties of not meeting in person. My presentation included pictorial slides representing our recent State Convention in Socorro, and public policy mandates, including efforts to publicize and abate Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Submitted by *Lynn Heffron*, Co-President



AAUW National Board Chair **Julia Brown** concluded our day with her presentation on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Title IX, health care coverage including access to contraception, dimensions of gender and identity, emphasizing the now available diversity website courses to offer our members with no charges attached and not to be forgotten, issues confronting the restructuring of National's website.

**OF SPECIAL NOTE: New Mexico will hold the next regional conference in June 2024.** In-person, zoom, or a hybrid will be considered. Current presidents liked that in the past, this was held in Albuquerque, which made it very easy to fly in and out of if we host an in-person regional conference.

Submitted by *Lynn Heffron*, AAUW NM Co-President

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## **Branch Project Grants**

**Branch Project Grants of up to \$200 per branch per year,**



are awarded in October.

\$600 is in the budget to support branch project grants for 2022-23. If all monies are not allocated in the fall, second applications may be accepted in the Spring. A branch seeking a Branch Project Grant shall submit a proposal to the Chair [Sylvia Fink, [sjsfink@gmail.com](mailto:sjsfink@gmail.com) or 5108 Marcadas Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114-4367] a proposal in writing, preferably via e-mail, in a format of the branch's choosing. The project must have an outreach, education, or mentoring component. The application needs to be submitted no later than **October 1**. Applications must include the Branch name, contact person, e-mail, and mailing information:

- Project Summary.
- Grant Amount being requested.
- Simplified budgets of project costs; and
- A list of contributors/supporters, if any.

The Chair forwards copies to the task force members [assembled from non-applicant Branches] for review and comment. After the Task Force has considered the applications, it may recommend a grant of less than the full amount requested. Grants will be announced at the Fall Leadership Team Meeting.

Submitted by *Sylvia Fink*, Branch Projects Chair

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## **Paid Family Leave Coalition**

Currently, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions is overseeing a Task Force comprised of 16 stakeholders to study the effects of paid family and medical leave (PFML) in the state. "If it is implemented, both employees and employers would pay a small state tax that would provide for a paid leave when, if an employee needed time off for a singular event, such as a new child or a major medical event or surgery for the employee or a family member, then the employee would be eligible to take up 12 weeks off. The Department of Workforce Solutions would then provide the employee with a percentage of their salary. The employer could use the employee's salary (savings) to hire a temporary worker, pay overtime for other employees who must carry a larger workload, or reinvest in their business, McDaniel said." NM Political Report. The Task Force will report out during the fall. The issue will once again go back to the Legislature.

**The Task Force has met three times so far All meetings are conducted virtually and are open to the public.** Individuals are encouraged to provide public comment during the first thirty minutes of each meeting. Recordings of past meetings and other resources can be found here: <https://kessjones.com/resource-page/> and will meet three more times before the report is completed by October 1.

The Paid Family and Medical Leave Coalition has been very active in advocating for the Act and supported the allocation of \$160,000 for Workforce Solutions to study the implementation of the Act. The Coalition has reorganized over the summer. We now have subcommittees for: Communication, Government Engagement, Field [community engagement], and Business Outreach.

**Our AAUW-NM commitment:** Our AAUW-NM Public Policy Committee will share information with Advocacy Team and members interested in this issue. They will be asked to do an action such as a letter to the editor, send in an Op-ed, ask the local government for supporting resolutions, visit with a candidate, legislator, or small business owner, or testify at a hearing. PFML resources will be linked on the AAUW-NM website. Interested members can contact me directly [sjsfink@gmail.com](mailto:sjsfink@gmail.com). We can arrange for some Zoom training if desired, and I will bring some information to October LTM. Submitted by Sylvia Fink, Public Policy Committee

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## AAUW-NM Public Policy Report

We all cringe when we see New Mexico ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in terms of educational outcomes and 50<sup>th</sup> in child well-being in the 2022 Kids Count Data Book, but in recent years we have moved forward in many areas. I, for one, am proud to live in a state that is a beacon of hope for many. In areas that are yet to be measured and areas that are unmeasurable, New Mexico has enacted many laws and policies that benefit women and families, citizens and non-citizens, and our overall quality of life. We have been addressing income inequality, health disparities, and social justice issues and still have miles to go, but we are on the right track, especially in comparison with other states. We aren't Pollyannas by any means, but advocacy efforts by AAUW and a host of other organizations have made us a multicultural mecca of sorts. **We walk our talk.**

Between now and November 8, I encourage all AAUW-NM members to work on this high-stakes election. We need candidates who will support AAUW-NM's Public Policy Priorities, <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/publicpolicy/>. (also printed below) We can coordinate our get-out-the-vote activities, and candidate forums with like-minded non-partisan organizations, including the League of Women Voters. Before early voting begins on October 15, the League's electronic voter guide for all New Mexico's races will go live. You can compare the qualifications and goals of candidates on your customized ballot and read how they responded to questions about abortion, guns, immigration, and other issues we care about. Just click on <https://lwvnm.org/> for the link to Vote411.org or go directly to <https://www.vote411.org/>. You can also link to election dates and registration information, <https://lwvnm.org/information.html>.

I encourage all members to advocate for the passage of Constitutional Amendment (1,2), which will increase the distribution of our monumental \$26 billion-plus Land Grant Permanent Fund from 5% to 6.25% and thereby **augment the budgets of the Early Childhood and Education and Care Department and the Public Education Department** and other designated beneficiaries. The investment will help us improve access to high-quality programs that can help move families out of poverty and create life-changing opportunities. Please consider writing a personal letter to your local newspaper to inform people about this important ballot question and urge them to Vote "Yes" to expand early childhood and public school programming. Education is the key to success and fundamental to our work. With NM's new Opportunity Scholarships, there are incredible options for New Mexico residents without bachelor's degrees to pursue college and career training tuition-free, but the Opportunity Scholarships were only funded for a year. <https://www.reachhighernm.com/>. We will once again need to advocate for legislative support of the Lottery Scholarships. In the Winter Roadrunner, we will focus on many of the major investments the state still needs to make and policies that we still need to enact.

At this point, we can celebrate our successful joint efforts to decriminalize abortion in New Mexico in 2021, as well as our commitment to protecting reproductive rights and personal decision-making. Topping my priority list for this election and for the upcoming legislative session is abortion access. The issue is not just whether governments should have the authority to enact forced birth policies; it's that government should not interfere with personal decision-making and deny bodily autonomy. Even though we were aware of the decades-long efforts to overturn the 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade* that protected abortion rights, few imagined the implications of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision.

The majority opinion issued by Justice Alito on June 24, 2022, overturned not only *Roe* but also overturned the legal protections provided by the *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision and other rights we thought we had under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Simply put, most people considered the equal protection and due process clauses of the 1868 amendment sacred and immutable. (3). Even two years ago, few could have imagined how quickly half of the country would move to criminalize what we consider a private decision for an individual to make. What other harms to equality can be enacted based on the *Dobbs* decision?

Stripping pregnant people of their personal autonomy opens the door to eroding



more fundamental rights, including same-sex marriage. As an organization that believes in providing educational, social, and economic equality, we cannot rest. We must join other organizations that are fighting for the rights of individuals to make their own as to when or whether to have children and whom they can love and marry. While we are fortunate that abortion is still legal in New Mexico, we're seeing people fleeing here from states that have enacted trigger laws and other legislation that seriously restricts access to abortions. We anticipate court battles and renewed attempts to limit abortion access for both NM residents and pregnant people who have to leave their home states for reproductive health care. We must be proactive, not reactive. We are working in coalition with other women's organizations and legislators who will advance safeguards in the 2023 legislative session, which goes from mid-January through mid-March.

In the next *Roadrunner*, we will list some of our legislative priorities in detail. **Sylvia Fink** continues to be AAUW-NM's liaison to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Task Force. We are also committed to working on gun violence prevention legislation. My predecessor, **Rep Pamela Herndon**, and **Miranda Viscoli**, co-president of New Mexicans to Prevent Gun Violence, are working on legislation to establish and fund an office of gun violence prevention that will emphasize education and treatment and other judicial alternatives in lieu of incarceration. At the Leadership Team Meeting on January 29th and Legislative Day on January 30th, we will discuss many of our shared priorities.

Before then, I encourage you to get in touch and consider becoming a member of our **Advocacy Team-the A-Team** for short. <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/publicpolicy/aauw-nm-advocacy-team/>. Thank you so much. Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, [meredith.machen@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.machen@gmail.com), 505 577-6337

1. Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2022 indicators compilation:

<https://www.nmvoices.org/nm-kids-count>

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[https://ballotpedia.org/New\\_Mexico\\_Land\\_Grant\\_Permanent\\_Fund\\_Distribution\\_for\\_Early\\_Childhood\\_Education\\_Amendment\\_\(2022\)](https://ballotpedia.org/New_Mexico_Land_Grant_Permanent_Fund_Distribution_for_Early_Childhood_Education_Amendment_(2022))

3. "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities. . . nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. . ."

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendment/amendment-xiv>

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### **Education Is Improving!**

In the last couple of years, New Mexico has taken significant steps toward ensuring that our public educational programs adequately prepare students for successful lives and careers, including increasing funding, improving fiscal transparency, and responsible management. As indicated in their joint action plan for improving early childhood through higher education, ECECD, PED, and HED are clearly committed to results-driven policies to promote positive student outcomes, educator diversity, community engagement, and accountability. Both innovative and proven practices focus on improving PreK-12 programs, especially for students who are economically disadvantaged, Native American, English learners, and differently-abled individuals. Long-term results of implementing this action plan will include evidence of strong student growth and empowerment, demonstrated through significantly increasing student academic achievement, high school graduation rates, and college completion.

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/yazzie-martinez-updates/>

Submitted by *Meredith Machen*, Public Policy Chair

## **Nancy Scheer 1943-2022**

Nancy O'Buck Scheer was born on October 3, 1943, in Casper, Wyoming. She passed on July 4, 2022, after a two-year battle with Cancer. Nancy earned a B.A. in mathematics from Phillips University in



Enid, Oklahoma, and an M.A. in mathematics education at the University of Wyoming. She taught mathematics in Grants, New Mexico, and at Hobbs High School in Hobbs, New Mexico. During the time she was living in Hobbs, Nancy set out to purchase a house. With a master's degree and a full-time job as a math teacher, she expected this to be a straightforward matter but was denied a mortgage unless her father could co-sign

the loan. This experience was one that helped cement Nancy's lifelong activity in promoting equal rights for women and supporting female education, especially in the STEM fields.

Nancy was very active in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) for many years, holding a number of offices and serving as the co-President of the New Mexico chapter in 2006/2007 with Nina Thayer; the team was known as "N2" in recognition of their work in science. The AAUW NM awarded Nancy its **Grace Barker Wilson Award for Distinguished Service in 2022**, the highest state award that the organization confers. It is awarded to the AAUW member who has done the most to challenge the status quo for women or to initiate positive social change through contributions to women's equity, women's education, or women's self-esteem. She was also a member of the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering.

A memorial service for Nancy will be held on September 17, 2022, at 11:00 am at the Open Circle Church at 645 Webber St, Santa Fe. Her ashes will be buried next to her husband's at the Guaje Pines Cemetary in Los Alamos at a family ceremony on September 19. **In Lieu of flowers, contributions to the Open Circle Church or the American Association of University Women's Educational Foundtion would be appreciated.**

## AAUW NM Calendar

**Aug. 1 AAUW National Community Action Grants – Open Aug 1 Deadline**

**Aug.1 AAUW National Career Development Grants - Open Aug 1 Deadline**

**Aug. 15 Deadline for Fall Roadrunner**

**Sep. 21 Black Women's Equal Pay Day**

**Sep 30 Financial Audits Completed**

**Oct. 1 Branch Project Grant Applications Due to Branch Project Grants Chair**

**Oct. 7 & 8 Fall Leadership Team Meeting – Gallup NM**

**Oct. 15 Start filings 990-N for State and Branches**

**Nov. 15 Deadline: for Winter Roadrunner**

**Deadline: AAUW American Fellowships**

**Deadline: AAUW Career Development Grants**

**Nov. 15 Deadline for filing State equivalent of 990**



**Nov. 30 Native Women's Equal Pay Day**

**Dec. 1 Deadline Community Action Grants**

**Dec. 8 Latina Women's Equal Pay Day**

**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 the year**

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## **Branch News**

The Las Vegas branch of AAUW NM and other local organizations celebrated Women's Equality Day on August 26th with an unveiling of a historical marker honoring **US Senator A.A. Jones** who was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the 19th amendment on August 26, 1920, which gave Anglo women the right to vote. The plaque is part of the National Votes for Women Trail (<https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/about-the-trail/>) sponsored by the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, which seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women's suffrage. The plaque was provided at no cost by the Pomeroy Foundation.



The marker is located at Sen. Jones' home in Las Vegas, which is currently owned by AAUW NM member **Dr. Sara Harris** and her husband Jay. A proclamation observing this event was read by Mayor Pro tem **Barbara Perea Casey**, also an AAUW NM member. The program included short speeches by women leaders, singing suffragist songs, and ended with a champagne toast and refreshments. Approximately 60 people were in attendance including Mayor Louie Trujillo, District Attorney Tom Clayton, Jennifer Lopez representing US Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez, and **Lynn Heffron**, AAUW-NM co-president.

Women's Equality Day commemorates the adoption of the 19th Amendment which secured the right to vote for many women. It was a historic step forward for women's equality, but it is important to acknowledge that the amendment didn't further the equality of all women. Nonetheless, it is important to celebrate and honor the women and men who fought for the right of women to participate in the democratic process.

Submitted by *Sonya Berg*, AAUW NM Las Vegas

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## **From National AAUW**

To create an account within the new **AAUW Community Hub** website so you can access your **membership information** and make any necessary changes, please choose which of the following steps matches your situation:

Access [my.aauw.org](https://my.aauw.org) from your browser - you have the following three options on this page:

1. **Existing Account:** Enter your email address and password;

2. **Existing Account BUT you forgot your password:** Enter your email address - select the *Forgot your password?* link under the blue LOG IN bar and follow the instructions;

3. **New Account:** Select the *Don't have an account?* link under the blue LOG IN bar and follow the instructions.

Please do not create a new account if you are an existing member.

For help, [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org)

### **AAUW-New Mexico Public Policy 2021-2023**

**AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.** AAUW's Public Policy Priorities provide a basis for members' participation in governmental decision-making. We are firmly nonpartisan, committed to being fact-based, and act with integrity in the public interest.

We believe that gender, socio-economic, and ethnic/racial equality is fundamental to our democracy and the key to improving the quality of life for all. We respect the civil and human rights of all individuals in our diverse, global society. We strive to be inclusive, and we collaborate with other like-minded, non-partisan organizations.

#### **In society at large, we advocate for:**

- \*Protection of the civil, constitutional, and equal rights laws guaranteed by the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions and statutes.

- \*Separation of church and state.

- \*A fair, balanced, and independent judiciary.

- \*Expansion of voting rights and fair, accessible elections; campaign finance reform; and an Independent Redistricting Commission.

- \*Safe, livable, affordable housing and healthy, clean, and sustainable environments.

- \*Universal access to quality, affordable health care, and comprehensive family planning services, including self-determination of one's reproductive and end-of-life decisions.

- \*Freedom from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes.

- \*Recognition of gun violence as a health issue.

- \*Guarantee civil rights for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.

- \*Respect for the civil and human rights of all immigrants.

- \*Guarantee civil rights and equal treatment for all family structures, gender orientations, and identities.

- \*Access to well-regulated, quality eldercare, childcare, and dependent care.

- \* Federal adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.

- \* Support at home and international programs that address human rights, girls'/women's access to education and careers, and the full range of health care services without interference in personal reproductive decisions.

### **AAUW NM Leadership Team 2020-2022**

#### **Elected positions:**

##### **President:**

Lynn Heffron

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

##### **Co-President**

Helena Whyte

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

##### **VP Programs**

Judy Prono

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

##### **VP-Membership**

Cassie Marrs

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#### **Appointed positions:**

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##### **College/University Chair**

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##### **Historian**

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##### **Newsletter Editor**



### **In the workforce, we advocate for**

- \*Pay equity, fair compensation, and policies that promote work-life balance and ensure economic security.
- \*Equitable access to advancement in employment and freedom from sexual or gender harassment.
- \*Workplaces free from personal and employment discrimination.
- \*Leadership opportunities for women to close the gender, ethnic, racial, and socio-economic gaps.
- \*Greater access to benefits, including paid family, medical, and sick leave.
- \*Strengthening retirement programs and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from privatization and benefit cuts.

### **In PreK-12 education, we advocate for**

- \*A well-funded, high-quality, culturally and linguistically responsive, multicultural public education system that promotes gender and racial equality and addresses the barriers and biases that hinder the advancement
- \*Policies and efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income, Black, Hispanic, Native American, and other students of color; girls; and students with disabilities.
- \*Vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to educational accountability.
- \*Programs that meet the needs of girls, including strong promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and career development skills.
- \*Comprehensive health programs, including effective sex education, social and emotional wellness, and prevention (teen pregnancy, substance abuse, dropout, bullying, harassment, gun violence, and suicide).
- \*Programs to improve post-secondary access, civic participation, and job success.
- \*Financial management to improve savings, earnings, and economic security.

### **In public post-secondary education, we advocate for**

- \*High-quality academic programs that meet the needs and professional goals of women, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).
- \*Programs that support social-emotional and physical health; academic success; career preparation, training, and development.
- \*Scholarships and grants to improve access to and completion of programs by women, impacted people of color, and those who are economically disadvantaged.
- \*Programs that prepare women with skills and training for career success, including in non-traditional occupations, entrepreneurship, internship opportunities, and work experiences.

For further information, visit [AAUW-New Mexico](#).  
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### **Vacant appointments:**

Media Relations Chair

AAUW Funds Chair

Nominations 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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