



AAUW – New Mexico
*AAUW advances equity for women and girls
 through advocacy, education, and research.*

AAUW New Mexico
Summer 2021 Leadership Team Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom online meeting platform to comply with Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Meeting called to order at 9:16am by Lynn Heffron, AAUW-NM President.

A Quorum was declared.

Meeting Dedications: Beth Buchanan, Albuquerque
 Jackie Parker, Carlsbad

Attendees:

BRANCH	MEMBERS and Position
Albuquerque	Pamelya Herndon – Outgoing State Public Policy Chair Pat Maben – Branch President Shelley Rossbach – State Finance Officer, Branch Finance Officer Sylvia Fink – Immediate Past State President, Branch Projects Grants Chair
Carlsbad	No attendees
Gallup	Tracy Lassiter – Branch President
Las Cruces	Ann Chase – Christa Slaton – Outgoing State Finance Officer Marsha Hokkanan –
Las Vegas	Barbara Casey – Branch Co-President Mary Byers – Branch Co-President Phyllis Ludi – State Bylaws Chair and Parliamentarian Sonya Berg – Branch Public Policy Chair
Los Alamos	Helena Whyte – State Awards Chair Judy Prono – Branch Member
NM Online	Helena Whyte
Santa Fe	Cate Corgill – Branch Co-President Janie Thelin – Branch Co-President Louise Yaakey – State Co-Vice Pres Program Lynn Heffron – State President Meredith Machen – State Public Policy Chair
Silver City	Karen Love – Branch President
Socorro	Becky Reiss – Branch President, College/University Chair

Excused Absences: Laura Bemis, VP-Membership, Judy McGuire – Secretary, Mary Sandford – Academic Chair, Kathie Davis – Nominations Chair, Cheri Burch – Webmaster

The Minutes of the April 17, 2021 Leadership Team Meeting were accepted as presented.

Announcements: Lynn Heffron announced that Beverly Chambers has moved to Texas from Las Cruces.

Finance Report: Presented by outgoing Finance Officer Christa Slaton. There were no Board expenses due to travel restrictions because of the ongoing pandemic. Consequently, there is a surplus compared to the budgeted expenses. Christa commented that AAUW national is very slow to send the state dues to the AAUW-NM bank account. The budget and financial reports were sent to the Leadership Team via email.

Report was approved as presented.

Membership Report: Presented by Lynn Heffron for Laura Bemis. A written report was also sent to all the Leadership Team members prior to the meeting.

There has been a net loss of members all across the state in the last year. Decrease in members seems to be an effect of the ongoing pandemic.

A number of members are struggling financially and can no longer afford the dues; comments were made concerning the need to get AAUW national to reassess the current dues payment structure.

The degree requirement is also a major issue of concern.

The Albuquerque branch assists members with financial need up to 50% of the dues if the need is known. This is a word of mouth program.

A Santa Fe branch member is in the process of setting up a member dues “scholarship” with the expectation that other members will participate.

Discussion of the need for a marketing campaign to market AAUW in New Mexico. The question was asked if national has a canned campaign that can be modified for individual branches.

A discussion about the need for AAUW to work in coalition with lots of other organizations, and not just focus on increasing AAUW’s membership.

Program Report: Not presented at this meeting.

New Business:

Awards: Sylvia Fink and Helena Whyte reported that

2 *Mission in Action Awards* were presented this past year to:

1. Socorro branch for their GRADS – Graduate Reality And Dual Skills program;
2. Tracy Lassiter of the Gallup branch for starting and maintaining the Gallup branch of AAUW, and for representing AAUW-NM as a speaker for the NM History Conference focusing on NM suffrage efforts, among other initiatives.

Ingenious Ideas Award went to the Socorro branch for the Trivia Night recruiting activity which was primarily a student-driven event and quite successful.

The Las Vegas branch received a commendation for the exceptional job the branch did hosting the Virtual 2021 State Convention. A certificate will be sent to the branch.

The details are in the written report which was emailed to the Leadership Team.

New Officers:

Shelley Rossbach was elected by acclamation as the Finance Officer;
Meredith Machen was unanimously approved as the Public Policy Chair;
Phyllis Ludi was unanimously approved as the Parliamentarian and Registered Agent for AAUW-NM following Nancy Scheer's resignation from these roles.

Fiscal Agent Account at the NM Foundation for AAUW-NM

President Lynn Heffron stated that she would like to set up an organization for AAUW-NM that would allow the pursuit of grants that are only available to 501(c)3 organizations. She said that the Santa Fe branch has entered into a fiscal agent relationship with the New Mexico Foundation (formerly the NM Community Foundation) that allows the Santa Fe branch to receive donations and grants as though it were a 501(c)3 organization. Lynn is interested specifically in having AAUW-NM sponsor filming videos about AAUW in New Mexico.

Discussion about the idea included the following:

Judy Prono asked what is entailed in setting up a relationship with the NM Foundation.

Lynn responded that grant applications submitted by AAUW-NM would list the requester as "NM Community Foundation – AAUW New Mexico".

Judy also asked what the NM Foundation requirements are for setting up an account with them.

Meredith Machen said that if we do it, it should be set up as an education fund.

Judy Prono asked if setting up this relationship would conflict with AAUW national's requirements for branches.

Sonya Berg said that AAUW national had told the branches they all had to incorporate as 501(c)4 organizations.

At the end of the discussion, Sylvia Fink made the following motion:

Move that Lynn Heffron initiate the process to establish a fiscal agent account at the New Mexico Foundation for AAUW-NM.

The motion was seconded by Meredith Machen.

The motion carried with 17 Ayes and 2 Nays.

Fall/Winter/Spring LTMs – Discussion was held about holding future LTMs virtually or in person. Several members said they would like to have a hybrid option for future meetings. Becky Reiss said that hybrid meetings require a meeting room that is already set up with cameras, microphones, and screens. The Leadership Team approved holding future meetings as hybrid in-person/virtual meetings.

Ongoing Projects and Reports

Public Policy Chair Final Report – Pamela Herndon stated that she sent her report via email to the Leadership Team. Highlights from her report are:

The upcoming Legislative Session is a 30 day session which is limited to budget matters and anything the Governor puts on the call.

AAUW's priorities are

- 1) Fair pay and economic equity for women which includes looking at the Pay Equity Initiative which will require companies to show they pay women equitably before they can bid on state-funded projects;
- 2) Workplace Sexual Harassment; and
- 3) Gender Bias in schools, especially as it affects school disciplinary actions for students. Children don't have the right to legal counsel when they come before a school's disciplinary board. In NM, Hispanic kids are disciplined disproportionately to the rate at which Anglo kids are disciplined.

Sylvia Fink reminded the LT that she represents AAUW-NM on the PFML Coalition which is working to pass the Pail Family and Medical Act. She sent out information about the Coalition's latest efforts to put together information for legislators on the Coalition's revised bill.

Tech Trek NM 2020 and 2021 – Cheri Burch and Helena Whyte reported that 2 weeklong virtual camps were held this summer. In June, 28 campers from the 2020 group attended and represented 27 schools. The girls attended one of the 2 core classes (Cybersecurity for Girls, and Wearable Tech), went on 2 virtual field trips, and met virtually with several professional women scientists and engineers. 60 girls had been accepted for the 2020 camp. These campers had received *Tech Trek in a Boxes* last summer.

In July, 32 girls representing 19 schools attended the 2021 virtual camp. The girls attended one of three core classes (Cybersecurity for Girls, Climate Science, and Wearable Tech), participated in 2 workshops, went on a virtual field trip and met virtually with several professional women engineers and scientists. There were many fewer nominations and applications in 2021 than in previous years.

According to the American Camp Association, even in-person camps in 2021 were reporting approximately 50% of their normal enrollments.

Tech Trek will make a very concerted effort this year to get the usual number of nominations and applications, and the hope is to hold an in-person camp at New Mexico Tech University (no relation) in the summer of 2022. At this time, NM Tech is planning to be open for in-person campus activities this Fall.

Start Smart/Work Smart – Sylvia Fink reported that both programs are available virtually. Two NM universities, NM Highlands University and NM Tech, pay AAUW for the license to use the Start Smart program.

Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) – Karen Love in Silver City reported that EYH is part of a national program, and the Silver City branch was able to deliver the program virtually this past year. 200 girls in the Southwest corner of NM registered through their schools and received *EYH in a Box*. There were 6 or 7 STEM activities in the box. They did not require internet access to do them, and they were offered in both Spanish and English.

Girls Can! – Marsha Hokkanan reported for Laura Bemis that the Las Cruces branch is hoping to be able to hold the program this coming year. This year's program was cancelled due to the pandemic.

5 Star Recognition Program – Judy Prono reported that it wrapped up on June 30, 2021. Los Alamos earned all 5 Stars, and other branches also earned stars. AAUW national has turned it into an annual program with the major focus of getting all the branches to align their programs with AAUW national's strategic goals. The AAUW website has a section devoted to the 5 Star Program at: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>. The new initiative has an emphasis on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and all branches and state organizations are encouraged to have a DEI officer. There is also an emphasis on joint programs between 2 or more branches.

NCCWSL Scholarships - Not presented at this meeting.

Officers' Reports – Highlights

Roadrunner Editor – Lynn Heffron reported for Judy McGuire that the Roadrunner is being sent out using the Constant Contact email distribution program. Judy is working on cleaning up the email addresses in Constant Contact, and said that about 50% of the recipients open the Roadrunner. The email list is 650 names, but many of the email addresses don't work.

Historian – Shila Marek reported that she wants to retire from this position and is looking for a replacement.

Branch Reports

Branch reports from all the branches except Albuquerque, Gallup, and Las Cruces were sent to the Leadership Team by email prior to the meeting.

Announcements:

Meredith Machen announced the following:

The NM Commission on the Status of Women will have their first open meeting soon.

The Citizens Redistricting Committee will be having 7 meetings around the state in October to take public input regarding the redrawing of Legislative Districts. Their website <https://www.nmredistricting.org/> makes the proposed maps and a great deal of other information available. Fair Districts for NM, <https://fairdistrictsnm.org/>, is a coalition of 26 organizations who are working with the Citizens Redistricting Committee.

Tracy Lassiter announced that she has been awarded the UNM's Branch Campus Tenure Track-Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Lassiter teaches at UNM-Gallup. Additionally, Tracy will be a keynote speaker at the International Comparative Literature Association annual convention in Venice, Italy in September. See <https://www.venicewestconference.com/page-5#Lassiter> for more information.

The next meeting of the Leadership Team will be scheduled for this Fall and is planned to be a hybrid virtual/in-person format.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by Phyllis Ludi for Judy McGuire