



AAUW-NM Winter *Roadrunner*

Mission: to advance gender equity for women and girls through
research, education, and advocacy.
Have a fun and safe summer!!!!



Helena Whyte, Co-President



Lynn Heffron, Co-President

URGENT MESSAGE:

**AAUW NM FINANCE CHAIR NEEDED
IMMEDIATELY**

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAME OR NOMINATE
A FELLOW AAUW NM MEMBER TO BE THE
STATE'S FINANCE CHAIR. THIS SEAT IS
VACANT AND NEEDS TO BE FILLED ASAP. NM
STATE LAW REQUIRES THIS OFFICE TO BE FILLED.**



**SEND YOUR NAME OR NOMINATION TO CO-PRESIDENT LYNN
HEFFRON, lgheffron@gmail.com.**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Perhaps there is nothing more daunting right now for AAUW NM than envisioning our future. A call was summoned by Shelley Rossbach and Phyllis Ludi at both the 2023 Winter and Spring Leadership Team Meetings to rethink, reexamine and possibly solve the many challenges confronting AAUW at both the state and branch levels.

What do you want from our AAUW state and branches? What do you enjoy? Not enjoy? Do we restructure our state organization? Our state leadership? Reidentify policy priorities. Reduce meetings – both in person and via Zoom? Continue our focus on legislative priorities. Push National to redefine membership requirements? Re-evaluate national, state, and branch relationships. These questions and others were raised and discussed at both 2023 LTMs. And as agreed at our Spring LTM, an AAUW NM Restructuring Task Force was called for by our members to develop priorities and address these and other questions. This task force has now been formed with 15 members representing 8 of our 9 branches. Our first meeting via Zoom will be on June 28th. Helena and Lynn will co-lead.

Also, please note our AAUW NM leadership on restructuring led to a revamping of the subject for discussion at our most recent AAUW Regional Meeting on April 15. AAUW Governance Chair Malinda A. Gaul, sent out this notice to the Rocky Mountain state presidents:

“We know many states and branches struggle with affiliate structure – finding leadership, recruiting new members, and encouraging participation in programs and events. This month the Governance Committee will do a short presentation on re-envisioning affiliate structure and then facilitate a discussion on the topic. We will gather information from all the meetings and suggest how to re-envision your affiliate structure.”

And as one of our new NM Task Force members Julia Brown stated, “...coincidentally the National Board is also commencing an effort to look at the structure, membership, and affiliate relationships...”

As you can see, we are not alone. While Arizona was not on the call, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming noted they, too, are experiencing the same difficulties in increasing memberships, filling office positions, and creating more attractive programs.

Please know that all AAUW NM members are asked to submit questions, suggestions, and recommendations on what should be considered in restructuring and send those to Lynn at her email: lgheffron@gmail.com. Tell us what you **like** and want to **preserve**.

Remember, “We are tenacious and trailblazing --- advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future!” Here’s our chance to honor that motto.

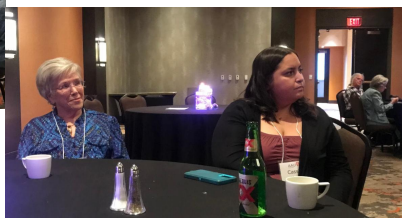
Lynn Heffron and Helena Whyte

AAUW NM LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING & CONVENTION



Becky Reiss speaking at Banquet

Judy McGuire and Cassie Marrs



Members listen attentively and ponder the future of AAUW-NM

The Spring Leadership Team meeting and 2023 Convention was held on April 14 and 15 at the Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel in Bernalillo NM. In addition to the discussion about the future of AAUW NM, **Kathie Davis** was elected Secretary. The Finance Officer position remains open, as do several other Appointed Positions: Nominations Chair, Diversity Chair, Historian, and Media Relations Chair. If you are interested in working with the Leadership Team and filling one of these positions, contact Lynn or Helena.



UN 2023 Commission on the Status of Women

President **Lynn Heffron** was honored to attend the United Nations 2023 Commission on the Status of Women, noting that this meeting is the largest gathering of gender equality champions in the world.

AAUW-NM Public Policy Report and Legislative Preview

AAUW-NM Public Policy Report for LTM
January 29-30, 2023



This legislative session, which ended March 18, was possibly the most promising one ever for advancing our Public Policy Priorities. Not only are we very fortunate to have the largest state and federal revenues ever-\$9.4B-we have a commitment by the majority of legislators and the governor to one-time investments as well as recurring allocations. We have the potential to vastly improve education, health care, behavioral health, social services, and elections and promote equity, family well-being, community safety, and overall quality of life. The governor's very ambitious agenda had broad public support as well as the majority in both chambers. We have the most diverse group of legislators ever, featuring more women than men in the House, two-thirds of the majority caucus in the Senate, and more women in leadership positions who vow to work collaboratively across the aisle to address the tremendous challenges we face in our state. The commitment to shared values and problem-solving and finding common ground rather than partisan territorialism —is a hallmark of New Mexico, but politics and philosophical differences still prevail. Legislators need to hear from us about our priorities. We recognize that even with a robust budget, the competing priorities from other groups are alive and well. We also need to overcome the inevitable resistance to changing the status quo and the reluctance to invest money and advance policies in the public interest. Huge debates are expected on taxes, expenditures, and the role of government for that reason. We know where we stand and to take advantage of this historic opportunity, we need more hands on deck!

Frankly, we need more active members on our **Advocacy Team** (A-Team). Please help promote quality education, health care, human rights, economic security, violence prevention, and more. Our priorities this session included increasing career development opportunities in schools; improving educator recruitment, training, compensation, and retention incentives; protecting reproductive healthcare access; instituting Paid Family & Medical Leave; and modernizing our legislature. To be effective during the legislative whirlwind, we need an **organizer** to keep the A-Team on top of the legislation that relates to our priorities, and we need members to shepherd bills so they advance rather than get lost in oblivion. Each session, so much legislation is filed that it often takes years to get across the finish line. We can't squander this historic opportunity. We need members to talk to reluctant legislators on important committees and explain why we need their support of the bills we have identified. This year in our **MyRoundhouse** account on the NM Legislature's

website, we were not including legislation we oppose. Should the need for organized opposition become necessary, we will let you know. Mostly we need help to advance our priorities. Our legislators appreciate the support and generally accept community input. Click this link for the [AAUW NM Public Policy Advocate sign-up Form](#).

Please frequently check our locators:

<https://nmlegis.gov/MyRoundhouse/Locators?id=35072> . This active account is updated each night to reflect changes in legislation as well as schedules. If you see legislation that is stalled in committees, ask your legislators who sit on the assigned committee to ask for it to be heard. Be sure to explain the reasons for your support and why the legislation is needed. We need more members to speak up at committee meetings on Zoom and invite you to join the A-Team or speak as individuals.

I remain focused on education and some violence prevention legislation. Sylvia Fink will work with our coalition partners to pass Paid Family and Medical Leave. Lynn Heffron will be working with other non-partisan organizations on reproductive rights. Nina Thayer will help get gun safety legislation passed. Who will lead our work on human rights, health care, housing, and social services? Will you or can you identify a member who will?

Our goals of advancing equality, economic security, and educational and career opportunities for women are not threatened as they are in other states. But to remain proud of New Mexico's values, we must protect policies in statute and get good programs funded.

We invite all members to use the resources of our Advocacy Team. If you are interested in helping us, please get in touch with me. We will mentor!

<https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/publicpolicy/aauw-nm-advocacy-team/>. Thank you.

Meredith Machen, State Public Policy Chair,

Meredith.Machen@gmail.com,

505 577-6337

-

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

AAUW at the Legislature

Find our priority legislation at

<https://nmlegis.gov/MyRoundhouse/Locators?id=35072>. Watch or participate in hearings, <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Calendar/Session> . View recordings at Webcasts. Use our guide to the NM Legislature's website and other resources <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/publicpolicy/aauw-nm-advocacy-team/>. Help us promote equity and opportunity for all. Advocacy is a team sport!

NM's Equal Rights Amendment

New Mexicans have stronger protections than those in many states because voters approved our own Equal Rights Amendment in 1972. **"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall any person be denied equal protection of the laws. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied on account of the sex of any person."**

Meredith Machen, Public Policy Chair

LEARNING MATTERS—

Help Is Out There for Those Who Want to Attend College By Meredith Machen

There has never been a better time for New Mexico's residents to take advantage of the many incentives now available at our state colleges and universities. New Mexico offers a robust array of courses and programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, many of which can lead to enhanced career options and improved quality of life. Hundreds of millions are being invested in scholarships and loan-for-service graduate programs in health care, teaching, and STEM fields. Most of New Mexico's legislators have responded very favorably to Governor Lujan Grisham's mission to make education the cornerstone for improving the economic security of our residents.

Here are a few tips for those wanting to obtain undergraduate degrees or certificates and wondering what financial support is available. This past school year, New Mexico became the first in the nation to offer Opportunity Scholarships, "free college," for those who had not completed degrees. Opportunity Scholarships allow students to attend part-time or full time making college possible for the vast number of residents who never completed their undergraduate degrees. So many residents took advantage of this remarkable program that our legislature and governor increased the budget allocation to \$146 million for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

Each year, our legislature and the governor will have to decide how much can be made available for these new scholarships. Our Lottery Scholarship has been in place for years but is only open to high school and GED completers who attend full-time immediately after graduating. Continuous enrollment in both fall and spring semesters is required.

Opportunity Scholarships cover tuition and fees for up to 90 credit hours for an associate's degree and up to 160 credits for a bachelor's degree. While our state scholarships are very generous, many students are unaware that their books can cost more than their tuition and fees.

Most high school seniors learn that they should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year to determine their eligibility for grants, loans, and work-study. The FAFSA application deadline for attending college this fall is June 30! <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Savvy students take advantage of our state scholarships and use federal financial aid to cover some of their living expenses, especially if they have to reduce their hours of employment or have childcare expenses. Sadly many adults are unaware of the availability of federal financial aid and even less aware that most of our higher education institutions also use the FAFSA's Student Aid Report data to determine eligibility for other support. Financial Aid offices use the FAFSA results to assist eligible non-citizen high school graduates and residents who do not qualify for federal financial aid to acquire state scholarships and foundation scholarships made available donations from alumni, employees, businesses, and other donors. For access to

general information and a directory of our state's colleges and universities, go to <https://www.reachhighernm.com/>.

Students can stretch their dollars by attending our community and branch colleges. In addition to the many career training and specialized programs, students pursuing bachelor's degrees can take all of their general education requirements confident that they transfer seamlessly because of our statewide articulated system. Our federal and state governments have invested millions in broadband. To meet some of COVID's challenges, many of our postsecondary educators used technology to enhance instruction and strengthen collaborations with other institutions. Nowadays, full-time workers and parents of young children can access many courses online on their own schedules. Hybrid courses (in-person and online) provide flexibility unavailable previously.

Successful students recognize that they must focus on their coursework and commit the time necessary to do well. They forgo many social activities in order to make the academic progress required to keep their scholarships and achieve their long-term goals. True friends understand!

My precious memories are full of the radiant faces of graduates beaming with gratitude when they reflect on the support they have received from their teachers, family members, and friends. Their accomplishments are life-changing not only for themselves but for their families and friends. Learning opens minds in immeasurable ways that enrich our workplaces, communities, and our overall quality of life. Education pays its weight in gold over and over again.

New Mexico's voters need to continue to elect legislators who believe that investing in education is essential to our progress. We have come far, but nothing should be taken for granted.

Meredith Machen, LWVNM Education Co-Chair/AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair

Before becoming a full-time volunteer advocate for equity, Dr. Machen taught and administered programs in New Mexico's higher education institutions for 36 years and taught high school.

educ@lwvnm.org 505 577-6337

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/education/for-those-who-want-to-attend-college-help-is-out-there/article_oc8b3446-fd88-11ed-9a7d-d70a6a377c3d.html

Published Monday, 5/29/23

AAUW-NM 2023 Awards Report

The **Mission in Action Award** is given in odd-numbered years to recognize a person, group of people, or organization that exemplifies and furthers AAUW's mission. Two awards were given at the State Convention on April 14, 2023.

Girls Inc. is one of the unique organizations whose mission is solely focused on girls. The fact that programs target girls ages 5 through 18 provides an effective early intervention structure that influences girls throughout their lives. Since 1955, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe has inspired girls to be "Strong, Smart, and Bold." Girls Inc. provides girls throughout Santa Fe with life-changing experiences and real solutions to the unique issues facing girls. Girls Inc. gives girls the tools and supports they need to succeed, including trained

professionals who mentor and guide them in a safe, girls-only environment; peers who share their drive and aspirations; and research-based programming. At Girls Inc., girls learn to set and achieve goals, confront challenges, resist peer pressure, and see college as attainable. In partnership with sites in Santa Fe Schools and at the Girls Inc. Hillside Center, Girls Inc. focuses on the development of the whole girl. They learn to value themselves, take risks, and discover and develop their inherent strengths. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equip youth to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, Girls Inc. also advocates for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

Ronna Kalish is the Director of the New Mexico Tech (NMT) Performing Arts Series (PAS), a position she has held for 31 years. As the Director of the PAS, she curates the season of performances that are presented in the 650-seat Macey Center and organizes a variety of outreach events for the community and three rural school districts. Ronna is responsible for marketing, development, volunteer coordination, and community relations for the PAS. She was awarded the NMT Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and Socorro's Woman of the Year in 1999. She is a member of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators, the New Mexico Presenters Alliance, the president of Macey Center's Tech Club, and the secretary of the Socorro County Tourism Council. In addition, Ronna is a member of the Socorro County Options, Prevention, and Education (SCOPE) Health Council, the Socorro Community Theater, the Magdalena Chamber of Commerce, and served on the board of the Socorro County Chamber of Commerce. Ronna has made it her mission to showcase female artists as part of the PAS and to provide opportunities for the local community, especially children, to be involved in theatre and music.

The **Ingenious Idea Award** is presented annually for innovative mission-based Branch programs. The **Socorro Branch** collaborated with PAS during Women's History Month on March 24, 2023. This year, the panel coincided with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Region 3 Conference. They collaborated with AISES to present a panel of Indigenous women who discussed "Pathways to Resilience in Promoting Indigenous Success."

Congratulations to all the winners!

Helena Whyte, AAUW-NM Awards Chair

AAUW National News



To all our AAUW NM branch members,

We received an email on May 23 from Katrina Breeze, Senior Director, Institutional Advancement, American Association for University Women (AAUW), that may interest you concerning the **Oral History Project. (the yellow postcards from AAUW)**

We've excerpted below,
Lynn and Helena

Dear AAUW State Presidents,

.....I write today with an update regarding AAUW's Data Verification and Oral History Project and our work with PCI. We have received a tremendous response from those who have called into PCI. Thus far, nearly 9,000 members have reached out, over half updating important contact information and over 6,000 sharing their member stories for inclusion in the project. Thank you to those who have shared information about the project with your members and reached out to us with questions and feedback. Thus far, over 125 individuals have participated in a post-call survey, providing their feedback directly to PCI. The average rating is 4.2 stars. I continue to be personally in touch with PCI to review audio files of specific calls if needed and flag customer service issues that are raised directly with me so that they are addressed head-on.

Some of our members have expressed concerns about the PCI outreach, and in response

to that feedback, we have decided to cease further communications (whether by mail or by email) to all our branch members specifically for this campaign.. If branch members who received postcards previously wish to contact PCI, they can still choose to do so by calling the number listed on their postcard. We've also updated our FAQ page on the website about the project, which can be found here <https://www.aauw.org/membership/member-data-verification-oral-history-project-faq/>

Additionally – this morning, we sent an email to all members who have made a purchase via PCI for one of the AAUW Oral History Project products. We thanked them for their support and also reminded them that there is no purchase necessary to participate. We shared the number to call for those who may have changed their minds and would like to cancel their order. In case you have members in need of the number and may have missed our email, it is: **1-800-982-1590**

I am truly appreciative of all that you do in support of AAUW and look forward to viewing and sharing the finished AAUW Oral History Project copy. While those who choose to purchase will have their own personal copy, a digital flipbook copy will be made available on our website next year for all who wish to view and learn more about the impact that AAUW has made on our members' lives.....

Thank you once again for your leadership and support!

Sincerely,
Katrina

Katrina Sun Breese (she/her/hers)
Senior Director, Institutional Advancement
American Association for University Women (AAUW)
Advancing equity for women and girls



Rep. **Pamelya Herndon** and Senator Mimi Stewart, along with Mayor Tim Keller at the dedication of the Benny Hargrove Park next to Washington Elementary School. He was shot while trying to protect his classmates, and the dedication was on what would have been his 15th birthday. Pamelya was the lead sponsor of HB9-the only gun safety law that was passed and signed. Violence Prevention is our most important current priority

Branch News

Santa Fe:

The Santa Fe Branch Celebrated its 80th birthday with a party and scrumptious cake.

The current officers are represented in the photo. *Anne L. May*, President



AAUW-New Mexico Public Policy 2023-2025

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.

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

AAUW NM Leadership Team 2023-2024

Elected positions:

President:

Lynn Heffron

lgheffron@gmail.com

Co-President

Helena Whyte

mozden08@aol.com

VP Programs

Judy Prono

djprono@msn.com

VP-Membership

Cassie Marrs

marrs.cassie@gmail.com

Finance Chair

Secretary

Kathie Davis

kadkathryn@gmail.com

Academic Chair

Mary Sandford

M_sandford47@hotmail.com

Public Policy Chair

Meredith Machen

meredith.machen@gmail.com

Past President

Sylvia Fink

sjsfink@gmail.com

Nominations Chair

Appointed positions:

Branch Projects Grants Chair

Sylvia Fink

sjsfink@gmail.com

Governance Chair

Phyllis Ludi

pcludi@cybermesa.com

Diversity/Inclusion Chair

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](#). Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, meredith.machen@gmail.com, 505 577-6337

College/University Chair

Rebecca Reiss

rebecca.reiss@nmt.edu

Historian

Newsletter Editor

Judy McGuire

judymcguire2@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Phyllis Ludi

pcludi@cybermesa.com

International Interest Chair

Tracy Lassiter

tlasiter@unm.edu

Website Manager

Cheri Burch

ctburch@aol.com

Registered Agent

Phyllis Ludi

pcludi@cybermesa.com

Vacant appointments:

Finance Chair

Diversity Chair

International Interest Chair

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

AAUW

The *Roadrunner* is a quarterly publication of AAUW NM
Editor: Judy McGuire judymcguire2@gmail.com

Click on green button for website

Connect with us on Facebook.

