



## **AAUW-NM Spring 2023 *Roadrunner***

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



**Helena Whyte, Co-President**



**Lynn Heffron, Co-President**

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**From our Co-Presidents:**



AAUW NM has two big officer vacancies that must be filled. NM state law requires we have 3 officers minimum: a president, treasurer and secretary. As you know, Judy McGuire has resigned as Secretary for AAUW NM because of health reasons. At the January LTM in Santa Fe, Shelley Rossbach said she would not be running for Finance Chair. Thus we have 2 huge vacancies that need to be filled. We are asking you now for

nominations for these two key positions. We will vote on the nominees at the spring convention in April to be held in Albuquerque. For the record, Helena and I are to continue as co-presidents until June 30, 2024.

Please consider serving now. AAUW NM only meets 4 times a year so your time and energy are not burdened unnecessarily. We have been very lucky having exemplary members serve; now is your chance to lead or ask one of your AAUW NM friends to consider helping our organization fulfill its mission to improve the lives of women and girls in NM.

A special thank you from Lynn to Cassie Marrs and Nicole Olsson-Dail for hosting me and asking me to speak to women in Carlsbad at their WOMEN EMPOWERMENT BRUNCH on Sunday, March 5. "The Power of SHE" was the topic so that both Women's History Month and International Women's Day could be highlighted.

**Save the date  
AAUW-NM Annual Convention  
April 14 - 16, 2023  
Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel  
Bernallilo**

**Please consider helping college age girls in your community to attend NCCWSL which is being held in person this year. More info is below on this. Perhaps your branch can contribute funding to help pay the expenses for girls.**

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders  
(NCCWSL)**

**May 31 - June 3, 2023**

**University of Maryland Campus—College Park**

**<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>**

AAUW National invites hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration, and networking. The only requirement is that you are currently a registered college



student. Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply.

Registration is now open for NCCWSL 2023. The table below provides an estimate of the cost to attend from NM. Note that this estimate does not include mileage to the Sunport.

**Cost**

Early Bird Conference Registration (includes housing, scheduled meals) – until April 3, \$565

Optional Pre-event STEM workshop, \$65

Airfare Estimate Roundtrip from ABQ Sunport to Baltimore, \$500

Parking at ABQ Sunport, \$30

Ground Transportation Baltimore to College Park , \$20

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1, 180.00

**If you have any questions on how to apply please contact Rebecca (Becky) Weiss - [rebecca.reiss@nmt.edu](mailto:rebecca.reiss@nmt.edu)**

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## **Tech Trek NM 2023 Report**

Nominations for 7th grade girls deadline was Jan. 27, 2023. 195 nominations were received from all over the state: many were from new schools to us. We are back to pre-pandemic levels of interest. Applications from nominated girls are due Feb. 24, 2023. Interviews of applicants and essay reading will take place in March 2023. We are looking for volunteers to conduct interviews and read and score essays. Dana Roberson is chairing interview process. Judy Prono is again leading the essay readers. Up to 60 campers will be accepted, dependent on dorm availability at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, NM. Camp dates are June 18-24, 2023. We again will require NM DOH recommended vaccinations including Covid for staff and campers. We had no positive Covid infections during camp in 2022.

**Donations may be made to Tech Trek NM, PO Box 90322, Albuquerque, NM 87199. You can make a donation by credit card by going to the web site <https://techtrek-nm.aauw.net> and clicking on the**

Submitted by Helena Whyte, Tech Trek NM Board Chair, Feb. 19, 2023

## [AAUW-NM Public Policy Report](#) [and](#) [Legislative Review](#)



### **AAUW-NM Public Policy Report February 2023**

Our goals of advancing equality, economic security, educational and career opportunities for women, and other priorities are not threatened in New Mexico as they are in other states. Indeed, we remain proud of our values and policies, and this legislative session has been one of the most productive ever for our Public Policy priorities. Not only do we have the largest state and federal revenues and budget ever-\$9.4B, most of our legislators and our governor are committed to making one-time investments along with recurring allocations. About a third of the revenues will go into trust funds and reserves for future use. Legislators have filed about a thousand measures this session: good, bad, and ugly. The measures we are testifying for and hope to see enacted will vastly improve education, health care, behavioral health, social services, elections, family well-being, community safety, and overall quality of life. The governor's very ambitious agenda stresses equity and opportunity and has broad public and majority support in both chambers.

About half of the state budget will go to education. We oppose HB126-reducing the number of credits required for graduation, but we expect that increasing the number of hours of instruction; improving educator recruitment, training, compensation, and lowering health insurance costs will happen. Free meals for public school students also looks promising as well as support for Opportunity scholarships and more funding of professional programs in STEM fields.

We have the most diverse group of legislators ever, featuring more women than men in the House and more women in leadership positions in both chambers and on committees. Though partisan politics and philosophical differences are alive and well, we're seeing many female legislators work collaboratively across the aisle to address the tremendous challenges our state faces. The commitment to shared values, civil discourse, and finding common ground rather than territorialism is strong in New Mexico's legislature. However, we are witnessing many conservative male legislators using coordinated



tactics to slow committee and floor decisions through excessive questioning and attempts to amend measures knowing they will vote against them no matter what. Many of these same males are opposing efforts to modernize and diversify our legislature by setting up salary commission to determine fair, voluntary compensation. All of the 34 legislative co-sponsors are Democrats. Ten female legislators developed the legislation before more females and ten males signed on. Many of the conservatives are recipients of hefty campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. According to a report released by New Mexico Ethics Watch in January, this industry spent more than \$4.5 million on political campaigns during the 2022 election cycle to get their preferred candidates elected. We will continue to advocate for HJR8 to be approved in both chambers and go on the 2024 ballot for voters to decide. If not successful, we will be back again next year to push for a bipartisan commission to be established for this purpose. HJR2-the resolution to have two 60 day sessions- has met with less resistance, but a number of our younger women legislators have said that they may not be able to serve if that amendment passes and the one to pay legislators does not get on the ballot.

We will also try again next session and subsequent sessions to get an amendment establishing an Independent Redistricting Commission (HJR1) on the ballot. House Judiciary Committee members 10-1 voted to table the proposed resolution, clearly unwilling to give up any of their power. We worked hard for years to get the Redistricting Act passed, and it saved taxpayers millions in litigation costs and reduced much of the toxic partisanship we have seen for decades after each census. We made progress in the 2021 cycle when the House complied with the maps drawn by the non-partisan Citizens Redistricting Committee. The Senate Democrats who gerrymandered some of the districts heard loud public criticism.

(AAUW is one of the 40 organizations in the Fair Districts coalition.

See more

at <https://www.fairdistrictsnm.org/> and <https://www.nmredistricting.org/> )

We know from our years of fighting for the vote, fair child labor laws, equal pay, reproductive and other rights that persistence furthers. Our voices matter. We don't give up. We get stronger and better at working in coalitions. Case in point, if SB11 Paid Family and Medical Leave fails this session, coalition members vow to work together to gain momentum in the interim and try again in 2024 and subsequent sessions for as long as it is necessary.

We must keep expressing our views on policies and sharing the evidence that they work. We need to tell legislators who obstruct that while we respect healthy policy debates, stalling and filibustering are unacceptable. As public servants, legislators need to be reminded of

their duty to their constituents not corporate lobbyists and campaign contributors. We can remind them that good legislation deserves to get heard and voted on and that voters will not elect candidates who thwart progress and resist changing the status quo. We can't afford to squander our once-in-a-lifetime revenues and waste precious time grandstanding. Important policy decisions that will improve the lives of New Mexicans can be made carefully and expeditiously. We may want to write an editorial on this topic after the session.

I so appreciate the efforts of our hard-working active members of our Advocacy Team (A-Team) and our partners who help us promote quality education, funding for professional development opportunities, better health coverage and access to reproductive care, economic security, violence prevention, and so much more.

Next year, we hope more members will speak up at committee meetings and invite you to join the A-Team or speak as individuals. Help AAUW promote equity and opportunity for all! Advocacy is a team sport!

Meredith Machen, State Public Policy  
Chair, [Meredith.Machen@gmail.com](mailto:Meredith.Machen@gmail.com),  
505 577-6337

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## **AAUW at the Legislature**

Advocacy Team members and Leadership Team members have been conscientiously testifying on behalf of AAUW at committee hearings both in person and on Zoom. Other members have contacted their legislators on measures of interest.

We invite all members to use the resources of our Advocacy Team. You can help us make sure our priorities get across the finish line before the session ends on March 18.

Please track the progress of legislation in our Priorities list frequently as updates occur almost every day: <https://nmlegis.gov/MyRoundhouse/Locators?id=35072>.

If you don't remember that link, which is just for this session, you can go to <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>. Click on Quick Links, then My Roundhouse.

We will try to use aauwnm for both username and password again next session. If you see legislation that is stalled in committees, ask your legislators who sit on the assigned committee to request that it be placed on the agenda. Be sure to explain the reasons for your support and why the legislation is needed. View live streams and recordings at



Webcasts.

See more in our guide to the NM Legislature's website and other resources <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/publicpolicy/aauw-nm-advocacy-team/>

You can also find some of the presentations from our winter AAUW Leadership Team meeting and Legislative Advocacy Day at <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/explore-issues/>

At the end of the legislative whirlwind, we will post a final tracking sheet showing which of our prioritized measures await the governor's signature and which Constitutional amendment proposals will go on the general election ballot in 2024. Be aware that most of the funding for our priorities and other legislation is rolled into the omnibus budget crafted and passed by almost all of the House members. We are awaiting revisions by the Senate and final reconciliation before it goes to the governor for approval, but we don't expect major changes to occur.

Please write me at [meredith.machen@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.machen@gmail.com) if you want more information. Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Meredith Machen, State Public Policy Chair

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## [AAUW NM Awards](#)

AAUW-NM Mission in Action Award

**Nominations will be accepted until March 10, 2023**

[Nomination-Mission-form23](#) can be found at web site [aauw-nm.aauw.net/awards](http://aauw-nm.aauw.net/awards)

Description: Biennial award given in odd-numbered years to recognize a person, group of people, or organization that exemplifies and furthers AAUW's mission. Nominees potentially would be a person (educator, legislator, judge, business person, AAUW member, etc.) or group that has made major contributions to improve women's and children's status, education, and/or well-being in New Mexico. The award is open to both AAUW members and nonmembers who live and work in New Mexico.

Purpose: To honor and recognize a person or group that exemplifies and/or furthers AAUW's mission. This award is designed to raise awareness and visibility of AAUW in New Mexico as well as of contributions made to empowering women.

Criteria (must meet all):

Significant and major contribution to the education, advancement, or well being of women and children in New Mexico.

Person or group exemplifies and furthers AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, and research.

Nominees are residents of New Mexico (or a majority of a group's members are residents of New Mexico). An AAUW-NM branch is eligible.

Past winners: New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering, Socorro Branch for GRADS (Graduate Reality and Dual Skills Program), and Tracy Lassiter.

AAUW-NM Ingenious Ideas Award

**Nominations will be accepted until March 17, 2023.**

Description: Award given annually to AAUW-NM branches for innovative and successful mission-based programs, activities, or governance practices. This award was originally created and inspired by Marjorie Bell Chambers and Gloria Cordova, both long-time AAUW members and mentors.

Purpose: To recognize groundbreaking and outstanding branch programs, activities, fundraising ideas, member recruitment activities, and governance practices. To encourage mission-based programs and provide tested ideas for other branches to replicate.

Criteria (must meet one or more):

Innovative and successful mission-based branch program  
Successful new branch activity or new collaboration (within the past 3 years)

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**Branch News**

**AAUW NM Las Cruces**

**Girls Can!**





**Girls Can! was at the Las Cruces Downtown Farmers Market. Members Jeanette King, Marsha Hokkanen, and Laura Bemis brought a fun science project to the Las Cruces Farmers Market in February. Parents and students of all ages learning and challenging buoyancy. This was a great way to attract walkers and share our Girls Can! event and information about our branch.**

***Laura Bemis, Girls Can! Coordinator***

**AAUW NM Los Alamos**

**Women's History Month Events**

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Notorious RBG**

**Saturday, March 18, 1 p.m.**

***\*This event is being offered in hybrid format. Attend either in person at Fuller Lodge or online.***

***Use this link to register:*** <https://laconm.libcal.com/event/10212253>

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg is celebrated for her work as an attorney, federal judge, and Supreme Court justice (notably on behalf of gender equality). Her life will be presented by Dr. Dianne Layden in both a lecture and Chautauqua**

**portrayal that include her judicial opinions, family life, and reverence for opera. Ginsburg's friendship with fellow justice and opera lover Antonin Scalia became the subject of the opera Scalia/Ginsburg, now performed worldwide. She visited Santa Fe with her family for many years and called the Santa Fe Opera the finest summer opera company in the world.**

**This program is made possible by the generous support of the New Mexico Humanities Council and Friends of Los Alamos County Libraries.**

### **AAUW NM Socorro**

### **Women's History Month at New Mexico Tech**

**March will be a busy month at NMT! On March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Office for Advancement will present "Honoring Women in Work." This event is the official kick-off for the funding campaign to establish a Women's Resource Center on campus. We are also excited to announce that on March 24<sup>th</sup> the third Voices of Women (VOW) will be a shared event between the Performing Arts Series (PAS) WomenFest and the Region 3 conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). The theme of the panel discussion is "Pathways to Resilience in Promoting Indigenous Success" starts at 1 pm in the Macey Center. All month-long, art from Socorro County Women will be on**



**display in the Macey center. There are many more events, below is a complete list of activities.**

**Additional details for these events will be posted on the  
AAUW-Socorro Site: <https://socorro-nm.aauw.net>**

**3/3 - Women's History Month Kickoff, Upper level of the Macey Center 4:30 - 6:30 pm.**

**3/6 – 3/7 – “Honoring Women in Work,” presented by NMT’s Office for Advancement. This two-day event will feature Dr. Jennifer Dawson, a town hall, a panel, a speed mentoring event, and a special announcement. Located in Macey Upper Lobby.**

**3/8 - International Women's Day Luncheon featuring the keynote speaker, Dr. Donnette Alonzo, Macey Upper Lobby, 11am -1pm.**

**3/24 - VOW: Pathways to Resilience in Promoting Indigenous Success. 1 – 2:30 pm Macey Center, followed by a meet and greet.**

**NMT PAS will be presenting the following for Women's History Month, Details for all these events are available  
at [nmt.edu/pas](http://nmt.edu/pas)**

**3/1 - 3/31 - 2nd Annual WomenFest Artist Showcase: Month long art exhibit featuring Socorro County Women Artists. Macey Center Gallery**

**3/23 - The String Queens Fireside Conversations: Award winning trio from Washington, DC tell their stories of empowerment as women of color in music. NMT Torres Hall.**

**3/24 - WomenFest 23 Artist Showcase Reception: Meet and greet the**

**featured artists; appetizers & cash bar. Macey Center Gallery.**

**3/24 - Presidential Chamber Music Series III, The String Queens:  
FREE concert featuring award winning trio from Washington, DC  
play Baroque to Jazz to Billboard Top 100. Macey Center Theater.**

**3/25 - WomenFest 23 - 2nd Annual outdoor festival with live music,  
workshops, demos & vendors. Macey Center Parking Lot.**

**3/31 - Canvas & Cocktails - Fun foods, drink specials and art with  
instruction by Dana Chavez. Macey Center Stage.**

**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.

**AAUW NM Leadership Team  
2021-2023**

**Elected positions:**

**Co-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

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

**Finance Chair**

Shelley Rossbach

[shelley0424@gmail.com](mailto:shelley0424@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

**Academic Chair**

Mary Sandford

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

**Public Policy Chair**

Meredith Machen

[meredith.machen@gmail.com](mailto:meredith.machen@gmail.com)

**Past President**

Sylvia Fink

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

**Nominations Chair**



\*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 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](mailto:meredith.machen@gmail.com), 505 577-6337

#### **Appointed positions:**

##### **Branch Projects Grants Chair**

Sylvia Fink

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

##### **Governance Chair**

Phyllis Ludi

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

##### **Diversity/Inclusion Chair**

Kathie Davis

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

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

Rebecca Reiss

[rebecca.reiss@nmt.edu](mailto:rebecca.reiss@nmt.edu)

##### **Historian**

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Judy McGuire

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

##### **Parliamentarian**

Phyllis Ludi

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

##### **International Interest Chair**

Tracy Lassiter

[tlasiter@unm.edu](mailto:tlasiter@unm.edu)

##### **Website Manager**

Cheri Burch

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

##### **Registered Agent**

Phyllis Ludi

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

#### **Vacant appointments:**

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**

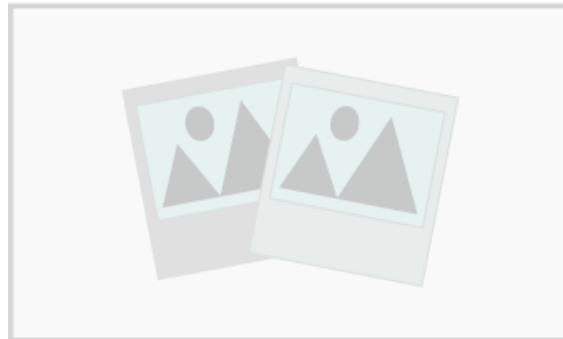
**AAUW**

The *Roadrunner* is a quarterly publication of AAUW NM  
Editor: Judy Mcguire [judymcguire2@gmail.com](mailto:judymcguire2@gmail.com)

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