



AAUW-NM ... *Roadrunner*

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



Helena Whyte, Co-President



Anne Chase, Co-President

Presidents Report

Lynn Heffron's four-year term as AAUW-NM Co-president ends June 30. She managed to lead us out of the pandemic embracing zoom and hybrid meetings. We held 1 virtual state convention and three in person state conventions (one was hybrid) during her tenure. We continued our legislative preview Leadership Team Meetings and Lobby Day in Santa Fe each year either on zoom, by hybrid or in person. Lynn is visionary, creative, and forward thinking who leads energizing and productive meetings. She advocated for New Mexico with AAUW National and even introduced AAUW Tech Trek NM to the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

I will continue as your AAUW NM Co-President for another year. I am excited to introduce you to my newly elected AAUW-NM Co-President Anne Chase. Anne has experience as a leader at the Branch level where she just completed her term as Las Cruces Branch Co-President. Las Cruces is the largest New Mexico Branch numbering around 100 members. She has experience working with girls through their annual Girls Can program. We look forward to the year ahead representing all of you AAUW-NM members.

Did you follow the NCAA Women's Basketball Championships? Caitlin Clark has increased viewership of women's games. Since she started playing pro basketball, viewership for women's teams exceeds that for men's teams. Will you be watching women's sports at the Summer Olympics in Paris, France in July? Title IX has not only allowed women to compete and get scholarships at the college level but is showing results in pro sports as well. Professional women soccer players are seeing pay equity with the men; can pro women basketball and softball players catch up too? However, we still have

work to do to protect students from sexual harassment and violence on campus.

AAUW-NM Convention Report

The State Convention was a great gathering, with representatives from all the branches. Kathy Davis, Sylvia Fink, and Cheri Burch put together a format which encouraged development of comradery among members who do not see each other very often. We had great fun with a book exchange. What a good idea.

Although the national vote to modify the membership requirements failed, Julia Brown advised us that branches have the flexibility to define what “equivalent” means to the education requirement. HR policies in government and private industries allow for years of experience to be the equivalent of a degree. Examples are military education, years of paralegal work, years of work experience, etc. Reviewing HR policies would be a good place to begin if branches wish to pursue this path.

We were treated to visitors from past Tech Treks - participants, a nominating teacher, and the camp nurse , among others. It’s always rewarding to get feedback – and it was very enthusiastic.

We had a presentation by the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Program. Before the Program was initiated, only 5 markers out of 500, mentioned women. For more information go to their website <https://www.nmhistoricwomen.org/> There was also a video of a Ted Talk by Ann Cuddy discussing the science behind body postures which create power positions. Go to the following link to listen for yourself: https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_may_shape_who_you_are

Submitted by Anne Chase & Helena Whyte, AAUW NM Co-Presidents

RESTRUCTURING CHANGES

At the convention, all changes to AAUW NM's structure were unanimously approved by all attending members. We now have 4 elected positions. Currently serving effective Jul 1, 2024 are Co-Presidents Anne Chase & Helena Whyte; Finance Chair Nicole Olsson-Dail; Secretary Kathie Davis; and Public Policy Chair Meredith Machen. They have 2 year terms with no term limits. They can appoint others to lead projects or events for one year or until projects end even if less than one year.

There will be 3 meetings: the state convention in person, or in hybrid format, in the Spring or Summer; a Fall zoom meeting, and the Legislative Meeting in person, or in hybrid format, in Santa Fe during the state legislative session.

Required Bylaw Changes were submitted by Phyllis Ludi and Shelley Rossbach and unanimously approved by all attending members.

For more information, please check your email for the Minutes of the May 17 & 18 LTM and Convention sent via Constant Contact to all members on June 12)

Submitted by Lynn Heffron - Outgoing AAUW NM Co-President





AAUW NM Co-President Helena Whyte presents Sylvia Fink with the Legacy of Leadership Award.

The Legacy of Leadership Award was also presented in absentia to Kathleen Le Febvre of Socorro.

Cassie Marss, President of AAUW Carlsbad, receives the branch award for Ingenious Ideas from Co-President Helena Whyte..



PLEASE NOTE: Constant Contact is our provider for the distribution of the Roadrunner and many other AAUW NM emails from our leadership team. It is very important for our editor of the Roadrunner, Judy McGuire, to keep the database of members' email addresses up to date. Please notify Judy of any additions or deletions to your membership in a timely manner. Contact her at judymcguire2@gmail.com.



Outgoing Co-President Lynn Heffron, Secretary Kathie Davis & Public Policy Chair Meredith Machen enjoying nature up the mountain from Alamogordo pre LTM.

Public Policy Report Summer 2024

Meredith Machen, Public Policy Chair



AAUW's work on educational, social, economic, and political issues at the local, state, and federal levels is of utmost importance. Challenges we thought were in the rearview mirror have escalated again, not so much in New Mexico, but around the country. It is critically important to get a strong voter turnout in the general election. Furthering our progress and achieving our goals is dependent upon electing officials who will advance equity and opportunities for all. Very concerning is that many eligible younger voters may not participate in this election. Not voting jeopardizes the progress the U.S. has made in recognizing the intrinsic rights of women, non-binary individuals, and people of color. Safety net programs including health care, social security, food stamps, Medicaid, and Medicare are at risk because special interests want wealth and power in the hands of elites and corporations. Fearmongering about inflation, immigrants, needing guns for protection from criminals, and so forth is a smoke screen preventing voters from seeing the dangers of autocracy and lack of regulation blinding them the threats to our democracy, our common purpose, and social responsibility. Many of those who would be most affected if safety net programs are cut are not getting the facts. Presented with misinformation and disinformation, they are distracted from the truth and the dangers. We know that persistence and resistance are crucial in the long struggle for equality and justice, so, too, is advocacy for our vision and our values.

Our moral compass keeps us focused on finding solutions for complex problems through non-partisan efforts, advancing common ground policies in the public interest. Our stand for serious deliberations and civic participation in an increasingly polarized era is essential. We will not accept the backlash and attempts to undermine advancements from those threatened by seeing diversity in our governments, workplaces, and communities. We will not tolerate attempts to tear down or prevent successes on the strong trajectory of improvements we are committed to. Indeed, fallout from the Dobbs decision has fired up more women to run for office and compete for professional positions that vested interests think they own. No longer will we accept being relegated to the traditional roles of women and subservience to men. "Votes for Women" is not the call of the past; it is our clarion call to action. This year's primaries show that more and more voters are choosing women for public positions long held by men.

Why is this important? NM has made great strides in many of our priority areas in recent years largely due to our female majority. Women tend to sponsor and support legislation that is family-friendly and promotes community well-being. Unlike many states, we have full reproductive rights and strong laws against gender discrimination. We have made significant progress that should soon pay off by making investments in education, including

early childhood, teacher salaries, free school lunches, school health clinics, teacher residencies, and loans for service. We have some gun safety measures, and we are aggressively advocating for more. We are pushing for higher taxes on alcohol, which is implicated in poverty, domestic violence, suicides, homicides, and injuries. We need to do much more about substance abuse prevention and treatment, and alternatives to incarceration, including behavioral health services and affordable housing.

Now that the primary is over, we know who the majority of NM's legislators will be. Summer and fall are good times to talk to incumbents and the new likely legislators-- winners of the primary who are virtually assured of being elected in November. (Experts say that 27 of NM's 40 senators and 37 of 70 representatives are known because their races are uncontested.) When you introduce yourself and/or reconnect, please share our priorities including Paid Family Medical Leave, educational and career training, behavioral and physical health care, community safety (including gun violence and suicide prevention), environmental stewardship and protections for our natural resources (especially clean water availability). Please reach out to the candidates who are likely to support our priorities who face opposition in the general election, clarifying if necessary that AAUW does not endorse any candidates or parties. We will have a slew of new faces, so the dynamics of our legislature should improve dramatically in 2025. We are fortunate to have the opportunities to testify in committees and make a difference during regular legislative sessions.

Many of the most notorious and egregious filibusterers have fortunately decided to retire or move on, so the last time we will see them in action will be at the special session, which starts on July 18. It is unclear how the special session will operate in terms of public participation.

Meanwhile interim legislative committees are meeting throughout the summer and fall, studying a broad range of issues in preparation for the next legislative session. Finalized work plans indicate the topics that need to be addressed. Legislators on these interim committees analyze current policies in light of problems, developing ideas for legislation that may be crafted and proposed for committee endorsement. The Legislative Calendar and LegisLetter are updated every two weeks to indicate meeting schedules, which may change at the last minute. Go to the specific interim committee link on <https://nmlegis.gov/> to see work plans and detailed agendas. Generally speaking, the handouts for committee members are posted on the actual meeting date, just before or during a committee hearing. In some cases, it is necessary to wait until a meeting has concluded before you can return to the committee agenda and get the hyperlinks to presentations. Once posted, the handouts remain on the committee's website along with the meeting agenda. You can watch recordings of the archived meetings if you cannot attend in person or by Zoom. Very brief public comments are taken at the end of interim committee meetings. In very rare circumstances, committee chairs may grant permission well in advance for formal presentations to be made.

[Thank you for spreading the word about our public policy priorities and encouraging voting and participation.](#)

Meredith Machen, meredith.machen@gmail.com
AAUW State Public Policy Chair, 505-577-6337

NOTES

See nmvote.org or <https://www.sos.nm.gov/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal-nmvote-org/> for primary election results and candidates' contact information.

Go to <https://www.nmlegis.gov/> to see legislation, agendas, and webcast to watch the proceedings and recordings. Click on the ZOOM link in the agendas in https://nmlegis.gov/Calendar/Whats_Happening if you wish to make comments. Some committees require you to email 24 hours in advance requesting that you wish to speak in support of or opposition to the number of the specific legislation scheduled for the next day.

Go to <https://aauw-nm.aauw.net/> for our national and state public policy priorities, helpful tips about the legislature's website and testifying, and resources for getting involved in our Advocacy Team. We welcome your help.

AAUW Rocky Mountain Regional Liaison News

Monies not used by AAUW Arizona in 2022 for the Rocky Mountain (RM) Regional Meeting were transferred to AAUW NM in April. The amount totaled \$2,172.47 and is to be used by AAUW NM to host a RM regional conference. The usual timing of holding this in the past has been in June, every 2 years, but for NM this conflicts with Tech Trek, also held in June. Thus, it's possible a Fall RM regional conference could be held here in NM. Many regional leaders expressed the desire to have this in person in NM, not by zoom as AZ did in '23. The new AAUW NM Leadership Team can address this in the near future.

In the regional liaison meetings, state leaders discuss issues facing us all: how to increase membership, how to support reproductive freedoms, how to recruit and best serve colleges and university members, and how to generate more leaders in the branch and state levels. While NM is a member of the SW group which includes Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming, often other states join in because of the date and timings of meetings. Recently Illinois and New York joined us for instance.

In the May 20 meeting, definitions of "equivalency" arose since members did not approve the changes for membership requirements. As Las Cruces and former AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown stated at the convention, rules of membership are directed by National only. But she also mentioned that many organizations use workplace and other equivalents to permit membership. She suggested we search NM's department of Human Resources for ideas on how to further research possible definitions of "equivalency."

These meetings will continue in the coming AAUW year, under the leadership of AAUW Board Vice Chair Gloria Banuelos.

Submitted by Lynn Heffron

MEMBERSHIP

Since restructuring of AAUW NM was voted on unanimously at the May 18 Convention, Cassie Marks is no longer our "official" Membership Chair. However, she wants to continue to help all branches moving forward. She asks that the membership person from each branch reach out to her to verify membership rosters. She is also happy to send branch leaders expired members names in case they are not expired accounting to your records. Expiration dates now vary so it's not easy to keep track of everyone. As of May 2024, AAUW NM has 362 members.

Contact Cassie at
marrscassie@gmail.com

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

As outgoing College and University Chair Becky Reiss reported at the LTM. our current C/U members are New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico Tech, Santa Fe Community College, St. John's College, and Western New Mexico University. We are awaiting news from AAUW National on how to best serve them.

Becky also reported there were no applications for NCCWSL state funding this year.

Of Special Note — At our LTM and Convention in May, Becky Reiss spoke for the Socorro branch as they are considering disbanding; their upcoming June branch meeting will tell us more. Also, Mikki Jemin spoke about her difficulties recruiting members and she is enthusiastically engaged in seeking younger members in Silver City. Stay tuned.



Carlsbad Members Celebrating AAUW Activities

Branch News

AAUW Carlsbad Roadrunner June 2024

Our branch had a productive spring. In February, we held our Scholars Reception. This is an event where we honor all the high schools' girls with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. We held the reception at Southeast New Mexico College in the afternoon. We had light refreshments and all girls were awarded a certificate. We also had a guest speaker, it was Ekta Bhakta, she is the Community Relations and Charitable Giving Coordinator for SIMCO the management and operating contractor at WIPP. We had a big turnout for this event.

In March, we held a Women's History Trivia night for the second year at Milton's Brewing we had about 15 teams sign up. We also sold more of our Empowered Women Empower Women T-shirts. We got a lot of great feedback with everyone looking forward to when we do it again next year. We were also very excited to win the AAUW NM Ingenious Ideas Award for this event at the State Convention in Alamogordo.

We awarded a scholarship to a high school senior in April at the scholarship award ceremony in Carlsbad. We also just selected someone for our Will Anne Ricer Memorial Scholarship, this is awarded to a nursing student at Southeast New Mexico College.

To close out our year, we had our Annual Membership Brunch. We had about 17 people show up to this event, our members brought brunch dishes and mimosas were served. It was a great social event and we gained 4 new members at this event and 2 others took membership forms home with them. It was a very successful brunch.

Four of our members attended the state convention in Alamogordo, we all had a great time. We are looking forward to bringing back our Champagne Brunch en Blanc in August, with a date and venue already set. We haven't had this event since covid. We are very excited for it.

We also continue to have our monthly meetings, monthly book group and monthly lunch

bunch. If you haven't already, be sure to check out our Facebook page, AAUW Carlsbad. We have been working to post more often.
Submitted by Cassie Marrs - AAUW Carlsbad President

Santa Fe Branch Report

The Santa Fe Branch will be hosting a presentation from the 2023-2024 recipient of the UNM Endowment Scholarship on Saturday, June 15. Our recipient is Lacey S. Hites, a 4th year graduate student pursuing a PHD in Sociology at UNM with a focus on Race, Ethnicity, and Education.

Members are looking forward to our Annual Picnic at Enid Tidwell's lovely home on July 27th that will provide delicious food and wonderful conversation.

Submitted by Robbie Richards - AAUW Santa Fe Co-President

AAUW Santa Fe Branch Members



AAUW-New Mexico Public Policy

Strengthening Education at All Levels

1. Ensuring quality programs through funding, professional training, and student support.
2. Promoting access to both academic programs and personal development.
3. Enhancing career opportunities through training, scholarships, and fellowships.

Improving Economic Security and Healthy Lifestyles

1. Supporting funding for affordable housing, social services, quality childcare, and food.
2. Advocating for affordable, accessible healthcare, reproductive rights, and behavioral health.
3. Promoting fair economic policies, including student loan debt relief, tax credits, and pay equity.
4. Addressing income stress and retirement security.

Fostering Quality Work Experiences

1. Promoting improved compensation and professional advancement opportunities.

AAUW NM Leadership Team 2024-2026

Co-President:

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Co-President

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Public Policy Chair

Meredith Machen

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Past President

Lynn Heffron

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2. Advocating for Paid Family and Medical Leave and flexible, family-friendly work conditions.

Promoting Safe, Just, Sustainable Communities

1. Advancing gender equity and sexism; addressing gun violence; reducing trauma and domestic abuse; treating alcohol and substance abuse.
2. Advocating for social justice and civil rights.
3. Protecting our environment and natural resources.

Improving Government Accountability and Access

1. Modernizing legislative practices; advocating for compensation to ensure diverse representation.
2. Promoting collaborative problem-solving and reducing partisanship.
3. Fostering respectful dialogue about critical issues.
4. Protecting voting rights and fair elections.
5. Embracing inclusive practices and policies.

For further information, visit [AAUW-New Mexico](#). Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair, meredith.machen@gmail.com, 505 577-6337

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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The *Roadrunner* is a quarterly publication of AAUW NM
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