

**Los Alamos Branch AAUW May 2009**

**Spring Tea  
Friday, May 15, 4:30-6:30  
Unitarian Church  
1738 N. Sage**

**WHERE THE GIRLS ARE**

AAUW Educational Foundation's presentation on  
Gender Equity.

Presented by our New Mexico State Co-Presidents

**NINA THAYER** and **MARY SANDFORD**

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet Mary and learn more about  
AAUW issues.

Refreshments Provided by your Coordinating Council  
Election of new officers

Come to the tea and *pay your dues* and avoid reminder notices. Your treasurer and membership chairs will thank you personally. Dues are: \$71 for many of us. However, this year, \$46 of the national portion is tax deductible.

This is the way the dues break down:

\$10 local dues

\$12 state dues

\$3 non-tax deductible national dues

\$46 tax deductible national dues.

Life members pay only state and local dues.

Honorary life members do not pay any dues.

In-state dual members pay national and state dues once, but pay all local dues.

Out of state dual members pay national dues once, but pay all state and local dues.

The checks should be written to AAUW Los Alamos Branch.

If you are not able to attend the tea, please mail your dues to:

Treasurer, AAUW Los Alamos Branch

P.O. Box 272

Los Alamos, NM 87544

## Branch News:

**The nominating committee** presents this slate of candidates for 2 year terms on the coordinating council.

Dorothy Donnelly-Shaner

Veronica Encinas-Saumon

Mary Ann Lindahl

Alahna Weller

Rozelle Wright

Helena Whyte

The membership will be asked to vote on this slate at the membership tea. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. Continuing on the council to complete the second year of their 2 year terms:

Cas Mason

Susan Oldham

Denise George

Natalie Markin has agreed to chair the nominating committee if elected. Beverly Cooper, Alahna Weller and Pat Mendius have agreed to be members of the nominating committee.

**New members:** The branch has two new members. Please welcome Ann Harper, 672-4012, [annmade@ida.net](mailto:annmade@ida.net) and Evelyn Petschek, 672-1548, [evelyn@petschek.com](mailto:evelyn@petschek.com). Add their contact information to your membership roster.

**The 2009 AAUW-NM convention** was a grand success. Lilly Ledbetter inspired our membership with her perseverance in seeking equal pay for women. The supreme court decision deprived her of her justly deserved financial compensation. However our congress subsequently passed the Lilly Ledbetter law that assures that claims for pay discrimination can be filed when the victim becomes aware of the discrimination not when the discrimination began.

Our speakers on Saturday morning provided two perspectives on our theme of 'Think Green – Think Smart'. Dr Keller gave the scientific argument that explains how global warming is caused by increased CO2. His

presentation has been placed on our state web site. Dr Bartlit's presentation, "The Public is an Ecosystem" emphasized the importance of communication, of using connected explanations instead of sound bites to place policy in context and to avoid preaching to the choir.

The afternoon workshops provided useful tools for living. Helena Whyte taught us how to read labels to recognize least harmful household chemicals. Matt Dickens gave us tips to use at home.

The day concluded with a delicious banquet at Central Avenue Grill, where Marge Agnew and Joy Drake provided musical entertainment.

Producing such a successful convention required many hands. The organizers are grateful beyond words to the following members of the Los Alamos Branch and two from Santa Fe for their help and support to plan and implement the very successful AAUW-NM convention here in Los Alamos. We had 51 registrants including 17 from our own branch.

Los Alamos Volunteers:

Mary Brooks, Stacey Castro, Angela Coop, Beverly Cooper, Gloria Cordova, Jill Forman, Rosmarie Frederickson, Denise George, Ann Harper, Lynn Jones, Linda McClellan, Pat Mendius, Marilyn Minshall, Susan Oldham, Nancy Scheer (dual), Jane Sherwood, Mona Wecksung, Alahna Weller, Helena Whyte, Rozelle Wright

Santa Fe Volunteers:

Lina Germann, Jeanne Patrick

With deep appreciation to all who made this possible and humble acknowledgement that we may have missed someone, Natalie Markin & Nina Thayer

Gloria Cordova was the featured alumni of Mount St. Joseph College – read more: <http://www.msj.edu/view/alumni/alumni-newsletter/gloria-cordova.aspx>

**Study Group Schedules** are posted at:  
[http://aauw-nm.org/los\\_alamos\\_study\\_groups.html](http://aauw-nm.org/los_alamos_study_groups.html)

*Book Group:* The May book is The Commoner, by John Burnham Schwartz. The May 4 evening meeting will be held at 7:30pm at the home of Chris Sierk, 4640 Ridgeway Dr. The May 5 meeting will be held at 2pm at the home of Carol Neal, 3451 Urban. The reviewer on May 4 is Veronica Encinas-Saumon and the reviewer on May 5 is Helena Whyte.

*Non-Fiction Book Group:* The next meeting will be Monday, May 18. The book is The Man who Loved China by Simon Winchester. The reviewer is Angela Coop. The meeting will be at the home of Pat Mendius, 124 Rover. *Note, this location is different from the location on our original schedule.*

*The World Cultures through Foods:* Contact Marilyn Minshall (672-3499) for more information.

*Great Decisions:* Carroll Thomas (672-1937) is the coordinator of the day-time group. The remaining meeting will be May 4, 10am at the home of Marilyn Doolan, 713 Meadow. The topic is Human Rights. A lunch pot-luck will follow the meeting.

The evening group is coordinated by Helena Whyte (672-9153).

The schedule for the remaining meeting is:

| Date              | Topic           | Hostess                     | Leader |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Thurs.,<br>May 14 | Human<br>Rights | Mesa Public<br>Library, Rm1 | 7pm    |

*Bridge:* Contact Jane Sherwood if you would like to play next year.

Study group chairs are asked to send schedules and any changes to Denise at

[georgeje@acm.org](mailto:georgeje@acm.org)

Changes will be posted at:

[http://aauw-nm.org/los\\_alamos\\_study\\_groups.html](http://aauw-nm.org/los_alamos_study_groups.html)

## State News:

Association bylaws will be voted in St. Louis in June 2009; they can be organized into three categories and will significantly change the AAUW organization we know. Your AAUW-NM Co-Presidents have outlined their significance, as they understand it, and ask you to return the questionnaire to a branch or state officer.

## Brief Description of Proposed Bylaws Changes

**Reorganization and Structure:** The most important change will reorganize the two entities we know today as AAUW and AAUW Educational Foundation to AAUW and AAUW Action Fund with a single board of directors. This needs to happen because it will realign the AAUW organizations with federal tax law and reduce administrative costs. All of AAUW's 501(c)3 activities (membership, program, Leadership Training Institute, scholarships, research and legal advocacy activities) will be grouped in one entity called AAUW and all the 501(c)4 activities (Lobby Corps, voter guides, voter registration and related political activities) in another smaller entity, named AAUW Action Fund. As a result of this change, \$46 of the \$49 national dues will be tax deductible, if you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return.

**Flexibility:** The proposed bylaws will minimize officer and member requirements for branches and add flexibility for states to merge, split or reorganize as needed. The AAUW board of directors will set national dues.

**Membership Requirements:** The section of the proposed bylaws on membership will open AAUW to all people who support our mission. This idea has been discussed, debated and defeated in the past. However, the idea of equity has expanded and a growing number of our members feel that an organization with the mission of equity should be open to everyone. This will be a hot topic in St. Louis! Partner membership will expand the College/University membership category to any organization supporting the AAUW mission.

**One-Member-One Vote:** This change to voting will do away with AAUW's complicated

delegate system for conventions. Business, including elections, will be conducted electronically with all members able to vote by email, FAX or postal mail, rather than only as delegates at convention. This will allow the costly biennial conventions to become conferences with little or no business sessions. The bylaws will require an annual business meeting in Washington to count votes and fulfill legal requirements.

Another important change will not be voted in St. Louis, as it does not require a change to the bylaws. The Membership Pilot Program (MPP) is a voluntary program offered to branches and states for the collection of dues online with a credit card, as well as the traditional way of mailing a check to the branch treasurer.

For more details login with your membership number and see the “Proposed Revised Bylaws Introduction” and “Proposed AAUW Bylaws Q&A” at <http://www.aauw.org/About/bylaws/index.cfm>

To provide guidance to our branch and state delegates to the national Association convention please fill out this questionnaire and return it to a branch or state officer.

## AAUW-NM Proposed Bylaws Questionnaire

How long have you been a member of AAUW?

Less than 1 year

1 to 5 years

6-10 years

Over 10 years

Are you a current member of an AAUW-NM branch; if so which branch? \_\_\_\_\_

1. The proposed bylaws give members the flexibility to modify their current state entity of AAUW. Would you vote to retain the AAUW-NM state organization as it currently functions (a state board with a full complement of officers)?

Yes

No

Not sure

2. Do you support the section of the proposed bylaws that no longer requires a branch to have a full complement of officers and requires only an administrative contact and a financial officer?

Yes

No

Not sure

3. Do you support the proposed bylaw that no longer requires a minimal numbers of members for a branch to be viable?

Yes

No

Not sure

4. Do you support the admission of partner memberships, those that support the mission of AAUW and that, in addition to colleges and universities, may include corporations, other organizations, professional groups, etc.? (These will be non-voting entities and cannot hold office in AAUW.)

Yes

No

Not sure

5. Do you support the proposed bylaws stating that the amount of national dues will be determined by a 2/3 vote of the 15 member Corporation Board of Directors after giving the membership 60 days to offer input?

Yes

No

Not sure

6. Do you support the proposed bylaws that give each member a vote in AAUW elections and business?

Yes

No

Not sure

7. Do you support the proposed bylaw that lists only the membership categories individual, life and partner, with the intent that any and all other categories (student affiliate, e-member, etc.) can be created under the policies and working rules of the AAUW Corporate Board of Directors?

Yes

No

Not sure

8. Do you support the proposed bylaw that would eliminate an educational requirement for membership and would offer membership to any individual or institution that supports the mission of AAUW?

Yes

No

Not sure

9. If the bylaw eliminating the educational requirement for membership is passed at the St. Louis convention, will you remain a member of AAUW?

Yes

No

Not sure

10. Would you use the option to pay your dues (branch, state and association) online with a credit card if it were available through your branch?

Yes

No

Not sure

What is your greatest concern for your branch from among all the changes that are being proposed?

### Branch Calendar

|     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| May | 4  | Great Decisions, Marilyn Doolan, 713 Meadow, 10am |
| May | 4  | Book Group, Chris Sierk, 4640 Ridgeway Dr, 7:30   |
| May | 5  | Book Group, Carol Neal, 3451 Urban, 2pm           |
| May | 14 | Evening Great Decisions, MPL, 7pm                 |
| May | 15 | Spring Tea, 4:30, Unitarian Church                |

### Coordinating Council for 2008-2009

|                       |                       |          |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Helena Whyte          | Facilitator           | 672-9153 | mozden08@aol.com      |
| Rozelle Wright        | Treasurer             | 662-5490 | rozelle@losalamos.com |
| Bev Cooper            | Secretary             | 672-9696 | mcooper@cybermesa.com |
| Alahna Weller         | Membership            | 672-9539 | acweller@comcast.net  |
| Carroll Thomas        | EF/LAF                | 672-1937 | ctgb@earthlink.net    |
| Denise George         | Newsletter            | 672-9688 | georgeje@acm.org      |
| Susan Oldham          | Communications        | 672-0778 | oldham98@hotmail.com  |
| Mona Wecksung         | Diversity             | 662-7084 | wecksung2005@msn.com  |
| Cas Mason             | International Affairs | 672-1938 | casmason01@msn.com    |
| Rosmarie Frederickson | Public Policy         | 662-5915 | frederrh@yahoo.com    |
| Natalie Markin        | Program               | 662-9399 | natalie@lanb.com      |
| Jane Sherwood         | Hospitality           | 662-3194 | jane.sherwood@att.net |