

AAUW Minutes from February 17, 2012 Council Meeting

Members present: Natalie Markin, Maryjane Giesler, Dorothy Donnelly-Shaner, Rozelle Wright, Judy Prono, and Marilyn Doolen

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Facilitator Natalie Markin. Minutes from the January 9 meeting were handed out and accepted as corrected (typo in Facilitator's report should read "to use" and in the Treasurer's report, donations in memory of Betty Aiello totaled \$1450).

Facilitator's report: Natalie asked Marilyn Doolen to report on the paperwork she submitted to nominate Thelma Hahn for the Grace Barker Wilson Award for Distinguished Service. Marilyn handed out copies of the nomination form, which she submitted to Cas Mason on Feb. 14 (meeting the deadline). She noted that the nominating essay had a 500 word limit, which was met by careful editing, and she expressed her appreciation for help from Natalie and Marilyn Minshall in reviewing the essay. She was able to send a copy of Thelma's Living Treasure photo with the nomination form. She was pleased with the ways she could draw parallels between Thelma's and Grace Wilson's careers. Council members expressed their thanks for her work in developing the nomination.

Natalie read Rosmarie Frederickson's Science Fair report. Judges this year were AAUW members Mary Ann Lindahl, Marilyn Doolen, and Rosmarie plus Master Gardners Dena Brent and Nancy Nunnelley. There were more than 200 entries so judging was challenging. Entries were identified only by their number and title (no participant names). Three class projects were given \$15 AAUW awards: How Far Can it Go (#270), Laser i3 Motion and Design: Proving Sir Isaac Newton's Second Law of Motion (#264), and Wood vs Plastic (#267). Eleven projects received \$5 AAUW awards: Earthquake (131), Anatomy of an Eye, Cow vs Sheep (163), Music Helps the Mind (160), Which Substance is Best for Cleaning Teeth (151), Crystals (125), The Bigger You are the More You Crush (239), Temperatures on Batteries (244), Follow the Bouncing Ball (243), M&M Mania (224), In What Liquid do Sugar Crystals Grow Best (253), and Dog Scents-Sense (179).

In news from national, Natalie announced a new focus on voter registration: "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" is a nonpartisan voter education and turnout effort aimed at maximizing the electoral power of women in the 2012 election. The 2012 NCCWSL Conference will be held May 31-June 1 at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. A settlement has been announced in the UC Davis Title IX athletics discrimination suit brought by female student wrestlers. The US District Court for Eastern California found UC violated Title IX by not sufficiently expanding intercollegiate athletic opportunities for female students at UC Davis between 1998 and 2005. UC will pay \$1.35 million to the plaintiffs' counsel for attorney fees; AAUW-LAF supported the plaintiffs' case.

Membership/Treasurer's report: We have a new member, Virginia (Ginny) White, who joined our branch on Jan. 2. In January, income was 39 cents in interest and expenditures were \$175.45. Rozelle sent a second \$10 check to the PRC in February because the first (sent in October) has not been cashed (and her contacts with the PRC have not elicited confirmation of its receipt); she doesn't want us to be charged a penalty for not paying the annual NM corporation fee.

AAUW Funds: Judy will confirm with Mary Ann that the personal notes accompanying AAUW donations made in memory of Betty Aiello were scanned and forwarded to her son and daughter.

International Relations: Dorothy reported that all was in order for Deborah Simon's talk Feb. 21 on the work being done by Rotary and United by Friendship to provide potable water in Guatemala. Rotary president, Thurman Talley, will introduce Deborah. He has invited Rotary members to attend the meeting. Jane Sherwood has organized refreshments for the program. Dorothy said Deborah can bring a projection screen for her talk.

Publicity: Rozelle reported that Mary Ann has engaged Mary Diecker for our March 15 Chautauqua performance. Ms Diecker's talk is titled, "It's Fun, It's History, It's New Mexico." Her speaker's fee is \$100; there will be no lodging costs as she will stay with relatives in town. Mary Ann will write an article for the LA Monitor about the program the week before the event.

Public Policy: No report.

College & University Relations: Maryjane reported that the April Start Smart workshop at UNM-LA is up in the air because she is no longer the faculty advisor for the honor society, which was to sponsor the workshop. She will talk to the new advisor, Zandree Stidham, to see if she has plans for the event and talk to Cedric Page about UNM-LA's license agreement. She will also follow up with Yvette Jaramillo on the status of her NCCWSL scholarship application.

Upcoming Programs

- Feb. 12 International Program: presentation by Deborah Simon on work being done by the Rotary and United by Friendship in Guatemala; 7:30 pm, BLC
- Mar. 15 Chautauqua Performance: "It's Fun, It's History, It's New Mexico," by Mary Diecker. Laugh a little and learn a lot about our state; BLC
- April ?? Presentation by Bernadette Lauritzen about LAHS's no bullying program? (see Old Business)
- May 18 Spring Tea: talk by Sharon Snyder on the life of Peggy Pond Church. Snyder is the author of a new book about Church, *At Home on the Slopes of Mountain*; 4-6 pm

Per Natalie, Nina has contacted Sharon Snyder, who is willing to talk to us about her book. Nina suggests that we make this a membership event, sending invitations to all branch members. Since the BLC is not available on May 18, she suggests that we hold the tea either at Fuller Lodge (rental fee is \$120) or the Unitarian Church (rental fee is \$72 for the Hearth room). After some discussion about the likely turnout, consensus was that the Hearth room was probably better sized for the tea. Also, since Snyder lives in Rio Rancho, Nina has invited her to dinner after the tea: do any Council members want to attend the dinner?

Old Business: Re AAUW's Crossing the Line report, Mary Ann learned that the high school has a no bullying program and that Bernadette Lauritzen is willing to talk to us about the program. Natalie will ask Nina to follow up with Lauritzen about a meeting in April; a presentation of LAHS's program may provide a segue for discussing AAUW's new sexual harassment report. No one had any information on the Lobby Corps luncheon or AAUW-NM Winter LTM & Day at the Legislature held in January.

New Business: Natalie asked for a committee to help her in planning for the AAUW-NM Summer LTM that we're hosting in July. Dorothy, Rozelle, and Judy volunteered; Dorothy will begin by check into lodging possibilities (10-15 rooms for July 20 & 21). We'll also have to check on dinner venues.

State Programs: The Las Cruces branch is hosting the AAUW-NM Spring Convention and LTM on April 27-29; the theme is "100 Years of New Mexico Women." Natalie plans to attend and is willing to carpool; contact her if you're interested in going.

Hilltopics Deadline: February 24

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 7:15 pm at Pat Mendius' home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Prono

AAUW Minutes from March 20, 2012 Council Meeting

Members present: Natalie Markin, Maryjane Giesler, Rozelle Wright, Denise George, Pat Mendius, Nina Thayer, Mary Ann Lindahl, and Judy Prono

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Facilitator Natalie Markin. Minutes from the February 17 meeting were approved as sent out.

Facilitator's report: Natalie passed around a Mission in Action report that noted AAUW had won its case on reselling children's books: branches that hold book sales will not have to submit children's books for lead testing, a costly procedure. National is opposing provisions in the 2013 Obama budget that would significantly reduce the budget of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor.

Membership/Treasurer's report: In February expenditures, Rozelle paid the Unitarian Church \$72 to rent its Hearth Room for our Spring Tea and signed the rental agreement; she also paid \$100 to Mary Diecker for her March Chautauqua presentation. We received \$10 back from national in branch dues for our newest member. Since Rozelle will not be in town in May, Mary Ann Lindahl volunteered to collect membership dues checks at the Spring Tea; Rozelle will send an email reminder about the dues before she leaves.

AAUW Funds: Nina shared the latest fundraiser notice from the Santa Fe branch to illustrate their "un-tea party" approach to fundraising.

International Relations: No report.

Publicity: Mary Ann reported that the Los Alamos Monitor ran a full article Mary Diecker's presentation on NM history, noting that the public was invited. Attendance was light (13); there was some discussion about the fact that Diecker gave a talk rather than a dramatization, as we've had in the past. In regard to the issue of not having a microphone for her to use, Nina noted that Radio Shack has a wireless lapel microphone for \$49.95, should such a need arise in the future.

Public Policy: Nina reported that Governor Martinez recently signed an appropriation bill that included \$125,000 for the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women; last year the governor vetoed a much larger appropriation for the commission. So the group will be able to resume activities on a scaled-back basis.

College & University Relations: Maryjane reported that there will be no applicants for a NCCWSL scholarship from UNM-LA and no Start Smart workshop in April. We discussed the merits of trying to schedule the workshop for May or next fall and the possibility of seeking a Lab venue for it. Consensus was that we should focus on next fall and explore LANL involvement.

Upcoming Programs

Apr. 17 Equal Pay Day, First United Methodist Church, 7:30 pm. Bernadette Lauritzen will speak about the class she teaches at LAMS to counter bullying and sexual harassment.

In relation to the program, Nina asked permission to (1) invite Gene Schmidt to speak about the school district's policy on bullying and sexual harassment and (2) offer copies of AAUW's "Crossing the Line" report to the LAMS and LAHS vice-principals in charge of administering that policy. Her hope would be to meet personally with these two principals. It was moved, seconded, and passed to endorse both actions. [Note: Nina has since learned that the Middle School is in the process of appointing a new vice-principal, so she will try to meet with its Principal, Rex Kilburn, as well as with Vice-Principal Cheryl Milgrim at LAHS.]

May 18 Spring Tea, Unitarian Church Hearth Room, 4-6 pm. Sharon Snyder will talk about the life of Peggy Pond Church. She is the author of a new book about Church, *At Home on the Slopes of Mountains*.

Natalie's suggestion that we have an optional 1940s/50s dress theme for the tea—hats, gloves, pearls—met with approval.

Old Business: Searching the archives for paperwork that documents our 501-c-3 status is still on Nina and Rozelle's to-do list. Helena Whyte has had no success in lining up new members to serve on the council next year; we need 2-5 volunteers to replace current members who are stepping down. Denise will include another call for volunteers in our next newsletter.

New Business: Natalie passed out copies of Mona Wecksung's write up on the MANA del Norte scholarship we have funded for the last few years. It was moved, seconded, and passed to send members her summary and request for 2012 contributions, with the addition of a deadline for those contributions. Denise will amend the summary and send it out.

Natalie, Nina, and Helena plan to attend the AAUW-NM Spring Convention & LTM in Las Cruces April 27-29. Registration deadline for the event is April 7.

Food options and hotel arrangements for the Summer Convention & LTM that we are hosting in July were discussed. Dorothy has found that five rooms are available at the North Rd Inn; consensus was that they would cover housing needs, based on previous LTM attendance. The Inn is also conveniently located near the BLC, if that is available for the meeting; Natalie will check on its availability. Rozelle suggested that we use the Coop catering service for lunch (\$5.99 for salad and sandwich box lunch); they need only two week's notice on the number needed. We will ask branch members to bring breakfast foods/fruits; a call for volunteers should go in the June newsletter. The branch will provide coffee, juice, water, and soda. A call for how many will attend should go out in the AAUW-NM President's letter about a month before the convention.

We must update our bylaws to reflect recent changes mandated by national. Pam Davies, state bylaw co-chair, is willing to review our changes but needs them before April 19 (they are due to national by May 15). Nina, Judy, and Marilyn Minshall will work on the update. The bylaws are posted on our Web site, but Denise will get Nina a Word file to revise.

Natalie noted that nominations for this year's Marjorie Bell Chambers Ingenious Awards are due to Cas Mason by April 1. Judy suggested we submit last fall's Start Smart pay equity workshop, and Maryjane suggested

pulling nomination information on the workshop from our Nov/Dec newsletter. Natalie will submit the nomination.

In response to Marilyn Minshall's request that we give members information on the Virginia Gildersleeve Foundation, Nina said she would get copies of the foundation's latest brochure to hand out at our May tea. Nina mentioned that she had talked to branch member Lynn Jones about work on the League of Women Voters Guide, which will be published this fall. Two years ago, we gave money for its production but not enough to qualify as a Guide sponsor (\$150 of our funding came from an AAUW-NM mini-grant). Consensus was that we should apply for a \$150 mini-grant again this year and then match that grant with whatever branch funding is needed for us to qualify as a sponsor. Natalie will submit a grant request based on our previous paperwork; submission deadline is April 1. Nina also noted that the League will need proofreaders for the Guide; Maryjane, Mary Ann, and Judy volunteered to help.

Scheduling a joint board meeting in May for old and new council members was postponed until we have identified the latter.

Upcoming Meetings: The Rocky Mt. regional conference will be held June 6-10, 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona. The next national convention will be in New Orleans in June 2013.

Hilltopics Deadline: March 23

Next Council meeting: Monday, April 23, 7:15 pm at Pat Mendius' home.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Prono

AAUW Minutes from May 18, 2012 Membership Tea

Those present: The list of those present at the tea is with the minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator Natalie Markin at 4:20 PM. Natalie called for more volunteers for the AAUW Council as she feared absences at council meetings would leave us with less than a quorum to decide on issues that come up. The nominees for the Los Alamos Branch Council for 2012-2014 were as follows: Mona Wecksung, Dorothy Shaner (2nd term, but will serve for just 1 more year), Natalie Markin (2nd Term) and Nina Thayer (2nd term, but may just serve until December 2012). There was a vote to approve the council as presented and a second. The nominees were voted into office. Joining them on the council are continuing council members Judy Prono and Mary Jane Giesler. Appointed officers continuing to serve are as follows. Denise George, Hill Topics Editor, Helena Whyte, Nominating Chair (2nd year of existing term), Jane Sherwood, Hospitality and Marilyn Minshall, Historian.

Natalie and Mona also encouraged people to donate to the Mana del Norte Scholarship Fund. If we do not reach our normal donation goal of \$1000.00, then the council voted to add monies from our treasury to make up the difference. Mona indicated that we had collected over \$900.00 thus far.

Mona Wecksung took any payments for AAUW dues for those who had not paid, as well as donations to the Scholarship Fund.

Old Business:

The committee of Marilyn Minshall, Judy Prono and Nina Thayer, dealing with by-laws, noted a glitch which was discussed and voted on at the tea and corrected. Article 6 Section 6 of the branch and Article 11 Section 2 were in conflict and we voted to make them consistent with one another. It involved whether our budget would be presented at our annual meeting or in the Fall. We voted to have our budget presented in the Fall at the occasion of our first branch membership meeting. It was approved unanimously.

We also dealt with use of our name and logo. When these are used by a person or group, there is exact wording that must be used.

Natalie reminded us of the old/new council meeting to be held at the home of Dorothy Shaner on May 30, 2012 at 6 PM. Please RSVP so she knows how many to expect.

New Business:

Natalie Markin and Nina Thayer discussed the Virginia Guildersleeve Fund. They encouraged donations to this fund. This is not an AAUW Fund but it was started by AAUW women. Virginia helped found the UN and this fund does good works throughout the world such as Wings to Fly in the Congo, water programs in Guatemala to provide clean water, help for women looking for employment who live in foreign countries and grant mini-loans in third world countries. It also deals with issues such as AIDS, literacy and encouraging small business. Nina emphasized that someone donated money for office supplies and expenses, so everything donated to this fund will go toward the funds work and not for administrative purposes.

Natalie said our branch won many awards at convention, one being The Marjorie Bell Chambers Ingenious Idea Award for our StartSmart program which encourages women to negotiate good salaries when they start work so they do not fall behind in pay in comparison to men doing the same work. We participated in and hosted the first workshop for that program in NM. The other awards were for the branches contributions to AAUW-Funds.

We were also encouraged to donate monies to the AAUW Funds in honor of Pat Mendius, a longtime AAUW member and hostess of our council meetings which she hosted for 5 years. Pat has back problems and failing eyesight and can no longer host our council meetings. Pat was presented with a certificate created by Cas Mason that will be delivered to her by Denise George.

We received a \$150 mini-grant from AAUW-NM to help League of Women Voters publish their voter guide.

There will be a Summer Leadership Team Meeting on July 21, 2012 in Los Alamos. Natalie said the membership would be called upon to provide breakfast items for the attendees. Lunch will be from the Co-op Deli @\$8. Attendees will be staying at the Comfort Inn and the North Road Inn..

Additionally, there will be a regional meeting from June 8-10, 2012 in Phoenix, AZ. Both Helena Whyte and Nina Thayer will be presenters at that meeting.

Natalie presented gifts to council members and non-council appointed members as a thank you for their efforts. She also thanked Pat Harlow who substituted for Jane Sherwood as tea hostess.

Program:

After the short meeting, we enjoyed a wonderful program about Peggy Pond Church, an early resident of the Pajarito Plateau and author of The House on Otowi Bridge as well as books of poetry. Peggy's life was discussed by Sharon Snyder the author of At Home on the Slopes of Mountains who presented a wonderful program of a talk and old pictures of Peggy and family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Cooper, Secretary

AAUW Minutes from May 30, 2012 Joint Council Meeting

Members present: Natalie Markin, Maryjane Giesler, Rozelle Wright, Mary Ann Lindahl, Mona Wecksung, Dorothy Shaner, Helena Whyte, and Judy Prono

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Facilitator Natalie Markin. Minutes from the April 23 Council meeting were approved as corrected and sent out.

Facilitator's report: Natalie read letter from Pat Mendius regarding her failing health and inability to host Council meetings any longer. Pat also expressed her gratitude to the Council for recognizing her long-standing commitment to our branch by donating to AAUW Funds in her honor. Natalie also read her response to Pat, acknowledging Pat's many services and conveying the Council's best wishes for her. In regard to Council positions for the coming year, Natalie thanked retiring members Mary Ann Lindahl and Rozelle Wright for their services and asked them to pass along information on their work to their successors.

Membership/Treasurer's report: No new members to report; having just returned from Russia, Rozelle will have a treasurer's report for our next meeting.

AAUW Funds: We collected \$555 in contributions to AAUW Funds that Judy Prono will send to national as a gift honoring Pat Mendius.

Programs: Natalie reported that Nina Thayer is willing to head up program work next year but wants a committee to work with her. Mary Ann suggested that given the low turnout for branch meetings this past year, scheduling fewer programs might be worth considering.

Public Policy: No report.

Publicity: Mary Ann reported that she had sent notices to the LA Monitor for our Spring Tea.

College & University Relations: Maryjane Giesler confirmed that UNM-LA plans to host the \$start \$mart program next fall.

International Affairs: Dorothy Shaner asked for program ideas for the upcoming year.

Old Business: Natalie passed around the information she sent to NM Roadrunner regarding the AAUW-NM LTM that will be held here at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church on July 21. Five rooms have been reserved at the North Road Inn and five rooms at the Comfort Inn and Suites. Reservations at both will get an AAUW Group block rate and will include a full hot breakfast. We are also offering bed & breakfast at the homes of branch members for a \$25 contribution to AAUW Funds. We will provide attendees with box lunches from the Co-op plus water, chips, and cookies from Sam's Club. Natalie has asked attendees to let her know by July 6 if they want a box lunch; lunch cost was estimated at \$8.00. Natalie expects 30-35 state members to attend.

Natalie asked whom she should contact at the League of Women Voters about the \$150 mini-grant we received from AAUW-NM to help support publication of the Voter's Guide. Judy noted that Nina Thayer had initially talked to branch member Lynn Jones about supporting the Guide. Mona Wecksung reported that branch members had contributed \$1070 for our MANA del Norte scholarship; since the scholarship is for \$1000, the extra \$70 will be set aside by the organization to go toward next year's scholarship.

New Business: Discussion focused on filling Council positions for the coming year, with the following assignments:

Natalie Markin & Judy Prono, Co-facilitators

Mona Wecksung, Treasurer/Membership

Nina Thayer, Programs

Dorothy Shaner, International Affairs & Publicity

Maryjane Giesler, College & University Representative

Helena Whyte, Nominating Committee Chair

Positions to be shared by Council members: Secretary, Public Policy, AAUW Funds, Diversity

Non-Council positions: Jane Sherwood, Hospitality

Denise George, Hilltopics newsletter

Marilyn Minshall, Historian

Program possibilities for the Fall Brunch were briefly discussed. Suggestions included showing the Great Decisions DVD on "Middle East realignment" as a segue to discussing the Arab Spring, having Council members give presentations on their recent travels, and showing a video on fostering creativity in individuals that Maryjane said had been well-received at UNM-LA. She will check on the video's availability.

Upcoming AAUW Meetings: The regional convention will be held June 8-10 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Hilltopics Deadline: ASAP in July (first week)

Next Council meeting: Tuesday, July 10 at Judy's home (670 Totavi)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Prono

Minutes from the AAUW-Los Alamos Council Meeting on September 4, 2012 held at Mesa Public Library. The meeting was called to order by co-facilitator Judy Prono at 6:33P.M.. Council members who were present were Judy Prono, Natalie Markin, Nina Thayer, Maryjane Giesler, and Mona Wecksung. Also attending was our hospitality chair Jane Sherwood.

There were 2 e-votes taken between the previous council meeting on 7/27/12 and this one. Both issues passed by a majority vote of the council members. The first issue was to add \$100.00 from branch funds to the \$150.00 mini grant that we received from AAUW-NM to give to the League of Women Voters to assist them in the

publication of their voter's guide. In exchange we are to get a ¼ page advertisement in the guide, which will hopefully promote membership in AAUW. The second issue was a request from Mona to include a letter in our September Hilltopics that she wrote to appeal to our members for donations to be used in the upcoming Mana del Norte Silent Auction.

Natalie moved and Maryjane seconded the motion that the minutes from the July 27, 2012 council meeting be accepted as corrected. The motion passed unanimously. In the Facilitator's report Judy mentioned that the One Member One Vote website was open, and that the AAUW Action Fund is promoting efforts to encourage women to vote this fall. It will also be publicizing where congressional candidates stand on issues important to women. Check out the website "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard"

Mona Wecksung handed out the proposed budget for 2012-2013 that she and immediate past financial officer Rozelle Wright worked on together. After discussion and a few minor changes, Nina moved and Mona seconded the following motion: The AAUW Los Alamos Council recommends that we submit the proposed budget as corrected to the branch members for approval at the next branch meeting on 9/22/12. This motion also passed unanimously. Mona also gave us her financial report which is attached. General financial information was discussed and Nina pointed out that all money received as donations to AAUW Funds should not pass through any of our accounts, but be sent directly to National either by the financial officer or by the AAUW Funds Chair. Judy pointed out that any money designated for the AAUW Action Fund is not tax deductible. Mona provided us with a list of members who have not yet renewed their membership for this year. The council members divided the list and agreed to call them and ask if they wished to renew their membership for this year and if so to please pay their dues. Nina pointed out that if you join a branch and then move and join a new branch, the financial officer must write a letter to the financial officer of the new branch indicating that all your dues have been paid. The new branch must honor that until December of that year, and may then collect dues for their branch as they see fit. We received a thank you note from Rosmarie Frederickson on behalf of the League of Women Voters for our gift to them of \$250.00 for publication of the Voter's Guide.

Nina gave us the following program report from her committee:

- Sept. 22, Fall Luncheon: 11 am at Dixie Girl Restaurant. Margaret Wood will talk about her years as caretaker for Georgia O'Keefe
- Oct. 16, Reader's theater at BLC.(10 readers needed. Maryjane and Nina agreed to read).A request for readers will be made in our next Hilltopics news bulletin.
- Dec. 1, Christmas brunch at Rancho de Chimayo
- Date?, International Affairs program: Dr. Paul Daly talking about his deployments to Iraq (e.g., what's combat medicine like now?)
- Jan/Feb?, AAUW Fundraiser: show the movie *The Invisible War* as draw for donations to LAF
- May 18, 2013, joint meeting in SF: Talk by Mary Carter, Executive Director of Women's Intercultural Center, Anthony, NM (being organized by SF Branch)
- Nina suggested that the Spring Membership Tea be at her home, with computers available for voting on National issues.

Nina will send out an e-mail to study group chairs to remind them to bring small displays and sign-up sheets to the fall brunch. She will also ask Denise George, our Hilltopics editor to send an e-mail reminder to branch members 3 to 5 days prior to the brunch.

Judy presented the AAUW-Funds report. She suggested that we show the movie "The Invisible War" as an AAUW Funds raiser this spring. It deals with the topic of sexual harassment in the military. We discussed several possible venues; The Reel Deal movie theater the library and the senior center. The favorite was the senior center as we felt that there would be little chance for discussion as recommended in the program in a box at the movie theater, and we were not sure if we could collect funds at the library. We are thinking of a \$5.00 donation charge. The fee to rent this movie is \$150.00. Natalie suggested that we ask AAUW-NM for a mini grant, now called branch project grants to cover the cost of the rental. Nina will contact national to see if she can get an estimate of how many branches have requested the film and how many people have seen it. Natalie moved and Nina seconded the following motion that passed unanimously: "The council proposes that we show the movie "The Invisible War" as an AAUW-Funds fund raiser this spring. We will apply to AAUW-NM for a

branch project grant of \$150.00 to defray the cost of renting the movie. That meeting will be open to the public.”

Maryjane gave the following College and University report. UNM-LA is planning another \$tart \$mart workshop this fall in October or November. She is hoping that Shelley Rossbach, who facilitated the workshop last year, will be available again this year. If not we now have other facilitators in the state. We have funds in our budget to cover the cost of printing the workbooks and for some refreshments.

Natalie reported on the state programs. She read the resolution passed at the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference this past June, and passed by AAUW-NM at the summer LTM regarding human trafficking. Nina agreed to consider perhaps doing a program related to this issue. The summer LTM held in Los Alamos in July was a success. Rozelle Wright did a great job with the food and attendees were happy with the motel accommodations. Plans were made for AAUW-NM for the coming year.

Under Old Business it was reported that Natalie sent the \$250.00 to the LWV for the Voter’s Guide. Nina will follow up with a call to Helena Whyte and Stacy, Helena’s daughter who is a graphic designer, to see if Stacy can design the advertisement. Judy Prono agreed to make a preliminary design with our mission statement, AAUW-Los Alamos website address, list of study groups, contacts Natalie and Mona, as well as some bullet points related to advocacy and women’s action. In Mona’s absence this fall Natalie asked National to list her as co-financial officer, so that she could submit a branch dues report to National. She requested that this be sanctioned by the council. Nina moved that the council agrees that Natalie be co-finance chair. Maryjane provided the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Under new business, Natalie will check with LANB to see if the branch can get a debit card for their checking account. This will be useful when trying to make motel or restaurant reservations at local venues. At the fall brunch the council members will make a plea for an additional council member, as we still do not have a secretary. The branch Policies and Procedures were last revised in October 2005, so they need to be reviewed. Natalie will contact Helena Whyte, a past facilitator, to see if she is willing to take on this task. Judy agreed to serve on the committee.

The next Hilltopics deadline is September 24, 2012. The next council meeting will be either 11/01 or 11/08 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.. Natalie will check to see if there is a meeting room available at the library. Judy adjourned the meeting at 8:45P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalie Markin

Minutes from AAUW Fall Luncheon, Sept. 23, 2012

Those present: A list of those attending our luncheon at Dixie Girl Restaurant accompanies the minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Facilitator Natalie Markin at 11:30 am. Natalie welcomed all and asked members to introduce their guests. She then introduced Coordinating Council and non-Council members and called for a volunteer to fill the vacant Council Secretary position; we need another Council member to ensure a quorum for Council meetings.

The minutes from the May 24, 2012 Spring Tea were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Treasurer Mona Wecksung handed out copies of the 2012-2013 budget and explained its broad outlines; projected expenditures are in line with those of last year's budget. It was moved and seconded to approve the budget and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements: Jane Sherwood called for volunteers to help provide refreshments at this year's activities and passed out a sign-up sheet for specific programs. Program Chair Nina Thayer announced that our next Branch meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Oct. 23: Sarah Rochester, director of Los Alamos Visiting Nurses, will discuss her organization's services and plans for new hospice care in Los Alamos. Natalie noted that the AAUW-NM Fall Workshop and Leadership Team Meeting will be hosted by the Albuquerque branch on Oct. 19-20, and that UNM-LA expects to host another \$tart \$mart workshop this fall.

Upcoming Branch activities include a "Meet your Legislator" get-together with our district's newly elected State Representative on Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm and a Holiday Lunch at Rancho De Chimayo on Dec. 1 at noon. Mary Ann Lindahl gave us details on the Out 'n About trip to Jemez Pueblo and Monument with lunch in Jemez Springs, scheduled for Oct. 17. The next Out 'n About trip will be in January to the Indian Arts and Culture Museum in Santa Fe, led by Nancy Scheer.

Nina Thayer announced that there will be a memorial service for long-time Branch member Jean Nereson next Saturday at United Church. She suggested that we might want to consider making a Branch donation to AAUW in her memory. It was moved, seconded, and passed to form a committee to suggest an appropriate way to honor Jean's many years of service. Mary Ann Lindahl, Nancy Scheer, and Nina Thayer volunteered to serve on the committee.

Study Group Presentations: Denise George spoke about the nonfiction book group, which meets every other month. She will lead the discussion on *Darwin's Armada* at the group's Sept. 24 meeting. The book for the Nov. 19 meeting is *Atlantic* by Simon Winchester; the January book is *The Greater Journey* by David McCullough.

Helena Whyte and Carroll Thomas discussed the Great Decisions groups, which meet from January to May. Carroll organizes the daytime group, which meets at Mesa Library; Helena organizes the evening group, which meets at members' homes. Great Decisions is organized by the Foreign Policy Association, which puts out a briefing book each year on foreign policy challenges facing Americans; topics for the coming year include the Euro, Egypt, NATO, China and Africa, and Myanmar. Group members take turns leading the discussions.

Helena also suggested the formation of several new study groups: (1) To mark the 40th anniversary of Title IX, she wants to encourage spectators to attend local high school and college girls' sporting events. She noted that admission to Hilltopper soccer games is only \$5 (\$3 for seniors) and that Hilltopper and Lady Lobos volleyball games are also inexpensive. We could carpool to Albuquerque for Lobo games. (2) Get together to watch the Presidential Debates, perhaps meeting in both Los Alamos and White Rock. (3) Get together to watch the PBS premier of *Half the Sky*, being shown Oct. 1 & 2.

Rozelle Wright spoke about the book group (fiction), which meets on the first Monday evening and Tuesday afternoon of each month. All books have been selected for the year and are available at a discount through Otowi Station. The October book is *Time is a River* by Mary Alice Munroe.

Sign-up sheets for current and proposed study groups were available.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. After lunch, Margaret Wood, author of *Remembering Miss O'Keefe: Stories from Abiquiu*, read excerpts from her book and discussed some of her experiences cooking and caring for the artist. After a short Q&A session, she also signed copies of her book for those wishing to purchase it.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Prono

AAUW Minutes from November 1, 2012 Council Meeting

Members present: Natalie Markin, Maryjane Giesler, Mona Wecksung, Dorothy Shaner, Nina Thayer, and Judy Prono. Nominating Chair Helena Whyte also attended.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by co-facilitator Natalie Markin. Minutes from the Sept. 4 Council meeting were approved as corrected.

Facilitator's report: Natalie asked Council members to make every attempt to attend branch meetings; the low turnout at our October meeting with Sarah Rochester, Director of LA Visiting Nurses, was embarrassing.

We received a \$140 Branch Project Grant from AAUW-NM to defray the cost of showing *The Invisible War* as our AAUW fundraiser this year. The grant funds have been deposited into our checking account. In discussion of the venue for showing the film, consensus was to see if the Reel Deal Theater would allow us to show it there for no fee, as the Las Cruces branch has arranged to do at one of its local theaters. We could charge \$10 admission (\$8.50 for seniors?), with all proceeds going to AAUW Funds/LAF. Judy Prono reported that Mesa Library was out as a venue and she was checking about using the Senior Center. Helena Whyte suggested that the Crossroads church might be another potential venue. We need to settle on a time and location before we can complete the screening application for the DVD; and the paperwork plus payment needs to be completed by Dec. 10 because after that the film rights will go to a different distributor. February or March have no scheduled branch programs so far and so could be used for our fundraiser.

Membership/Treasurer's report: We have 60 paid members with two others (Judy Collins and Margo Batha) promising to send their dues. Mona Wecksung asked who should be listed as branch officers for the NM state corporations report. Consensus was to list Natalie as President, Judy as Vice President, Mona as Treasurer, and Nina Thayer as Secretary, since those are the positions the report asks for.

There has not been much activity in terms of financial transactions. As of Nov. 1, our checking account balance is \$3105.40, our AAUW Funds account balance is \$835.50, and our CD balance is \$1782.38; the CD has been rolled over for another year. Natalie noted that Mona's name needs to be added to the AAUW Funds account and Rozelle Wright's removed; she and Mona will meet at the bank to make the change.

Mona asked what she should do with a check she received sent in memory of Jean Nereson. Nina indicated that she has a committee of four to recommend an appropriate way to honor Jean's memory, but they have not met yet. The committee includes Judy Crocker, who is representing retired LA teachers and Alpha Kappa Gamma. The committee will have a proposal by our next Council meeting. Mona will hold on to the check until then.

Programs: The next branch program will be held Nov. 15 at 7:30 pm at BLC, when the winner of the District 43 NM state House election will speak to us about his/her plans for the upcoming session. On Dec. 1 at 12:30 pm, we'll have our holiday lunch at Rancho De Chimayo. Nina is looking for a community service organization to feature/support at the lunch. She will talk to Ellen Morris about Self Help, Inc. Helena mentioned Hope Pregnancy Center as another worthy service organization. In addition to providing a speaker, the featured organization would ideally give us a wish list of gifts we could collect to help support its outreach.

In January, we will support the League of Women Voters' Legislative Preview but details have yet to be worked out. We discussed giving the League money toward the rent of Fuller Lodge, which we've done in the past, but no decision was made. Beyond that, the only scheduled spring activities are the AAUW-NM spring convention in Carlsbad (April 27/28), which will feature Lisa Maatz from national as a speaker, and the joint program with the Santa Fe branch on May 18, featuring a talk by Mary Carter. Nina is still looking for a way to include the Readers' Theater for one program; consensus was to use it for the Spring Tea and to book a room for the tea on May 10. Both the Hearth room at the Unitarian church and the gathering space at BLC were suggested as venues.

Ideas for an international affairs program have not panned out so far. Helena suggested that we might build a program around one or more of the coming year's Great Decisions topics.

International Affairs: Covered under Programs report.

College & University Relations: Maryjane Giesler reported that the Start Smart workshop will be held at UNM-LA on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 11 am to 2 pm. Shelley Rossbach will lead the workshop. It is being advertised as a brown bag meeting, but we could provide cookies and water; Maryjane will ask Jane Sherwood to help with these refreshments. The need to print more booklets was discussed. They still have 10 from the last workshop and Maryjane has the files for the booklet if they need to print more. Last year LANB covered the printing cost. UNM-LA will cover publicity for the workshop. We have budgeted \$150 for supporting the workshop, but it is not clear that our financial support is needed. We budgeted \$150 last year also, but it was not used.

Maryjane expressed frustration over a lack of follow through in the process of certifying folks to run the workshops; she is interested in being certified in order to conduct future workshops at UNM-LA. Nina explained that although endorsed by AAUW, the workshops are not run by it and the company that sponsors them is a small nonprofit. Certification requirements apparently entail attending a workshop and then having a follow-up phone interview with the sponsoring company.

AAUW Funds: Covered under Facilitator's report.

Public Policy: Nina reported that she did six voter registrations.

Publicity: Dorothy Shaner said she needs information on the Nov. 15 meeting to send to the *LA Monitor*.

Old Business: We gave \$250 to the League of Women Voters to help publish the Voters Guide and run a quarter-page branch ad on its back page. Judy provided text and Nina designed the ad. Although listed as contacts in the ad, neither Mona nor Natalie have received any calls in response to it. Nina brought a copy of the Guide to show our ad.

New Business: Natalie reported that the AAUW-NM Roadrunner would like an obituary on Jean Nereson for the fall issue; submission deadline is Nov. 6. Nina said she will write it but needs a digital file for Jean's picture. The suggestion was see if we can use her Living Treasures photo.

Judy and Helena will review the branch's policies and procedures to see that they are in sync with our newly revised bylaws. As Nominating Chair, Helena reported that her one prospect for joining next year's Council, Jean Moses, will be moving out of town. She asked who on the Council now plans to continue next year. Mona and Judy plan to stay; Natalie will stay for 1 year but not as a facilitator; Nina and Maryjane may stay. It has become a real challenge to get members to volunteer for the Council.

AAUW Hilltopics deadline: Natalie is waiting to hear from Denise

Next Council meeting: Monday, Dec. 10, 7:15 pm at Judy's home (670 Totavi)

Upcoming community dates: LACA concert, Sat., Nov. 3, 7 pm at Duane Smith Auditorium
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Prono

AAUW MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 10, 2012 COUNCIL MEETING

Members Present: Natalie Markin, Mona Wecksung, Nina Thayer, Judy Prono, and Maryjane Giesler

The business meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm by co-facilitator Natalie Markin. Minutes from the Nov. 1 Council meeting were approved as Moved and Nina seconded.

Facilitator's Report: **Based on information obtained from National** Judy urged Council members to contact their Congressional members to work across party lines to pass a fair, fiscally responsible budget and avoid the cuts of the "fiscal cliff": use "2 minute activist" link to craft message.

Judy urged members to contact House Members to pass the bi-partisan, AAUW-supported VAWA reauthorization bill, S.1925. (Passed in 1994, VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) which expired two years ago.

Treasurer/Membership Report: Mona mentioned that the CD had been renewed. Judy had mentioned that she paid an invoice. Mona showed the budget report and said we had a **checking** account balance of \$3156.78. She also mentioned we had 60 members to date with 2 memberships pending.

Program Report: Nina reported on the Jan. 9, League of Women Voters' Legislative Preview at Fuller Lodge. **Helena will be asked by the League of Women Voters to** Chair the meeting. Nina mentioned we would use leftover cookies from the Smart Start workshop. She also mentioned that the League wanted our AAUW group to pay half the rental which would be \$60.00. Discussion followed, and Nina made a motion and Mona seconded that AAUW would pay the \$60 for the rental at Fuller Lodge to help the League of Women voters with **the facility rental for the Legislative** Preview on the 9th of Jan.. 4 agreed and 1 abstained, and the vote passed.

Judy also announced that *The Invisible War* will be shown at UNM-LA in the Jeanette Wallace Lecture Hall as a fundraiser for LAF. It will be shown from 7 to 9:30 on Feb. 21 with a rental fee of \$75.00. Natalie moved and Mona seconded that the local group ask for a **\$10.00** admission fee with the benefit going to LAF. The motion passed **unanimously**. It was agreed to announce that **additional** contributions could be made to LAF to after the **showing of the movie**.

Nina suggested that Great Decisions could come up with a subject for the March meeting, and Dorothy should be consulted. Nina also mentioned that the April 9th meeting could celebrate Equal Pay Day with the Graduate to Pay Gap booklet for information for the program. Nina mentioned the Spring Tea was set for May 10, and the May 18th meeting would be a joint meeting in Santa Fe **with other branches participating** to hear a talk by

Mary Carter, the Executive Director of the Women's Intercultural Center, Anthony, NM organized by the SF Branch.

AAUW Funds Report: Judy mentioned that AAUW Funds Donation from our Chapter from Jan. to Sept 2012 is \$1317.00 which is sizable.

College and University Rep Report: Maryjane and Nina reported on the most recent Smart Start Workshop which took place on Nov. 28th which had Shelly Rossbach present the workshop to only 1 student. Nina and Maryjane will contact Cedric Page and suggest a further meeting to help redirect this program for the coming semesters.

Public Policy Report: Nina reminded everyone of Jan. 28th is Legislature Day, and we should form car pools to attend. Denise should be notified to put an announcement in the newsletter. **Natalie will contact Rosmarie Frederickson to see if she is willing to set up the car pools.**

Publicity Report: Due to Dorothy's absence, this was skipped.

State Programs: Natalie brought up the LTM and Legislative Day briefings, Jan. 27, 12-5pm, Santa Fe. After Lunch, Vickie Harrison (Common Cause of NM) will discuss her group's legislative priorities, and Dixie Trebbe, **AAUW-NM Public Policy Chair**, will discuss AAUW's. Details in *The Roadrunner*.

AAUW –NM Day at the Legislature is Jan 28, 9AM, Roundhouse. AAUW-NM still needs Chairs for Bylaws, College/University, International Interest, Media Relations, and Strategic Planning

Old Business: Nina spoke of her committee's discussion of how to honor the memory of Jean Nereson. She mentioned that the statue idea was not going to work out. The group discussed the possibility of funding a cultural collection of books for the elementary school libraries. The discussion was tabled because the committee needs to work on this!

The issue of the debit card was dropped because there was not a need for it in this chapter.

Judy and Helena will meet and go over the Branch Policies and Procedures on the 10 of Jan.

New Business: Expanding **Your Horizons Conference**, **sponsored by the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering** is to be held on **Mar. 02, 2013**. They contacted us to support their upcoming **Conference**. All members present agreed **we did not want to support this financially**. **Natalie will contact Marilyn Minshall, who has coordinated our support in the past by providing volunteers to help.**

Nominations for the Grace Barker Wilson Award were discussed, which are due on **Feb. 05th 2013**. **Natalie** suggested that Helena Whyte would be a good nominee, **and with the consent of the council she** will pursue this.

The subject of Science Fair Judges was brought up, and it was decided to check on the dates and the need for volunteers with Rosemarie Fredrickson.

An open house at the high school was announced for Jan 13, 2013 with Carla Crane. The information needs to be sent to Denise for the newsletter.

News Bulletin Deadline: Dec. 19

Next Coordinating Council Meeting : Jan. 17, Thurs. at 7:15 at Nina's home (1707 Solana)

Community Dates: Jeremy Denk, piano concert, Jan. 12 at Duane Smith Auditorium (LACA)

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Maryjane Giesler