

## **January 11, 2024 Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was conducted by Zoom on January 11, 2024 and called to order at 2:37 pm.

Members present were: Bev Cooper, Denise George, Marilyn Doolen, Judy Prono, Linda McLellan, Maryjane Giesler, Alahna Weller, and Nina Thayer. A quorum was present.

Members absent were: Mary Ann Lindahl, Carroll Thomas and Helena Whyte.

**Minutes:** The Minutes from the October 26, 2023 meeting were accepted as submitted and approved unanimously by those present at the meeting.

### **Facilitator Report:**

**Branch Impact Survey:** Judy reported the online survey came out just before Christmas and was due 1/8/24. National recommended printing the survey to draft answers and then transferring answers to the online survey. However, no link was provided to print out the questions and her inquiries to National about a link were not answered before the deadline; so she simply completed the survey online. It covered FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) and touched on branch membership, programs, advocacy, scholarships, NCCWSL support, and STEM outreach. It will serve as the basis for awarding stars in AAUW's FY23 Five-Star Recognition Program. Unfortunately, there was no way to print out the completed survey.

**Legislative Review:** This review was held by Zoom. Judy Prono thought it was a pretty good meeting. It was well attended and good questions were asked; branch member Margo Batha did a good job as moderator. We were prepared with refreshments which were not needed due to the meeting being held by Zoom. Denise asked if the meeting was recorded; Judy said it was and will ask LWV for a link so Denise can make it available to members who couldn't attend.

**Winter LTM:** This is coming up on January 28, 2024 at the Hotel Santa Fe. AAUW-NM restructuring will be on the agenda. Judy discussed some issues regarding restructuring.

**Treasurer Report:** Judy reported a beginning balance of \$4,436.19 and an ending balance of \$4,115.50 as reported by Mary Ann Lindahl.

Denise still has questions about members who may be remiss about not having paid membership this year. We need to revisit this issue. Judy has talked to Mary Ann about the issue but will ask her to specifically follow up on Rosmarie Frederickson, Ginny White, and Sue Watts. A new complication is that National is no longer having all memberships begin with the fiscal year; new memberships can now begin, and therefore end, in any month of the year.

**Membership Report:** Denise sent out the membership list.

## **Council Minutes of AAUW Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

**Public Policy Report:** Judy Prono reported the Legislative session runs from January 16 through February 15. AAUW-NM Advocacy Day at the Round House is January 29.

Nina Thayer reported she will follow the three pieces of legislation on guns and gun violence. Legislation to form an Independent Redistricting Commission will be followed by Judy Prono.

**College & University Rep:** Maryjane Giesler doesn't have any news at present since school hasn't started. Nina asked Maryjane for her comments on NCCWSL scholarships from State. Maryjane says the students need a scope of what is expected to apply. Maryjane said she would contact Lynn Heffron to see if any information is available to give to candidates. However, Nina sent an email to Lynn and Helena Whyte asking for details on NCCWSL scholarships, and Lynn answered that she assumed Becky Reiss would again handle the scholarships but that she would add that issue to the Winter LTM agenda.

Maryjane suggested our current UNM-LA scholarship recipient might come to the Spring Tea to talk to membership. Judy asked if we want to increase our scholarship to \$1,500 or give two scholarships and what size. Maryjane thinks we should discuss this issue with a larger group of membership available, perhaps at the Spring Tea. We could ask past recipients if the \$1,000 was sufficient. Judy asked the Scholarship Committee to find out what the average size of outside scholarships is and present this to the council in April. Maryjane can get the average scholarship range from other organizations.

**DEI/Historian Report:** Marilyn Doolen reads and tries to find things to put in the newsletter. Judy asked Marilyn to look for DEI videos from National that might form the basis of a program.

**Programs Report:** Bev Cooper and Marilyn Doolen will email/talk to Ellen Specter (First Born non-profit) who help young families about presenting by Zoom in February or April. Denise asked if last year's NCCWSL scholarship recipient might share her experiences with us via Zoom for a program. Judy will ask Lynn Heffron for her contact information. Linda McLellan will ask the RDC (Regional Development Corporation) if they could send someone to give the membership (and possibly an open meeting) a talk. Maybe they could address the unknown needs of the region and how the RDC steps in.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Science Fair Judging:** The Science Fair Judging will be held January 20. Marilyn Doolen, Denise George and Mary Ann Lindahl have volunteered to judge. Judy will email Esther Hessong from the Lab and see if she will judge. Esther is an AAUW member from Irvine, CA, who is working at LANL for the next 6 months to a year. She will also ask Helena Whyte. Judy has note paper with AAUW logo/envelopes for award notes.

## Council Minutes of AAUW Los Alamos Branch (continued)

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Newsletter content/deadline:** January 21 will be the deadline for input. Nina and Judy will try to get bill numbers and a short note on what they contain for the upcoming legislation on items they are following.

**Next Coordinating Council meeting:** Thursday, February 8, 2024, 2:30-4:00 pm by Zoom.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted:

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Linda McLellan, Secretary

Treasurers Report for Board Meeting for 01/10/2024

Bank Balance on 10/30/2023 Expenses

Income

Interest

Bank Balance on 12/31/2023

4436.19

Nina Thayer USPS  
AHT Insurance Cash

Dues

\$00.34 \$4115.50

127.03 Hospitality 176.00 PO Box 200.00 Liability 28.00

210.00 Dues

Membership

Also Joan Moore and Laura Loving have been added to our roster for 2024

Mary Ann Lindahl

## **Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was conducted by Zoom on February 8, 2024 and called to order at 2:05 pm.

Members present were: Denise George, Mary Ann Lindahl, Linda McLellan, Judy Prono, Alahna Weller, and Nina Thayer. A quorum was present.

Members absent were: Bev Cooper, Marilyn Doolen, Maryjane Giesler, Carroll Thomas and Helena Whyte.

**Minutes:** The Minutes from the January 11, 2024 meeting were accepted as submitted and approved unanimously by those present at the meeting.

### **Facilitator Report:**

**AAUW Inclusion Webinar: open membership/Civility Matters:** Judy attended the Webinar and mentioned the Civility Matters Policy was created because open membership is going to be on the National ballot. She also said that inclusivity is a big push from National and that National is encouraging branches to meet to discuss open membership. The consensus of the board was that we don't want to spend a branch meeting on support of this topic. It was suggested that we encourage our membership to vote on the National election which comes up in April, perhaps through the newsletter. We could have a computer available at the Spring Tea for anyone that wants to vote at that time, if voting is still open.

**Winter LTM at Santa Fe:** Nina Thayer and Helena Whyte attended. Nina reported the restructuring proposal was discussed and approved with several improvements. Nominations Process had the words added, ...all local presidents "will be asked to" nominate a person for each elected office... The voting policy for both Leadership Team Meetings and the convention were changed to "one person, one vote", so every member attending the convention will have a vote; there will be no branch delegates.

On the NCCWSL Scholarship, Judy will follow-up with Rebecca Reiss, state College/University Chair. AAUW-NM has \$1,000 budgeted for this scholarship.

A task force was put together to look at Start Smart/Work Smart at the State level, since National is no longer backing this project.

No one offered to host the state convention. A task force was assigned to look into having a state convention, securing a location and program. Nina did not volunteer Los Alamos. Judy commented that Albuquerque makes the most sense as a central location

and possibly the new library in Albuquerque could be the venue; she has been asked to join the convention task force.

**Treasurer Report:** Our beginning balance in the checking account was \$4,115.50. After paying bills, Mary Ann Lindahl said our balance is \$3,829.50.

### **Council Minutes of AAUW Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

**Membership Report:** Mary Ann Lindahl will follow up on dues for Ginny White, Sue Watts and Rosmarie Frederickson. Denise George mentioned she thought Ginny's check was applied to 2022 instead of 2023 at National. Chris Sierk should be down as an honorary life member. Mary Ann will also check on that status.

### **Public Policy Report:**

Judy commented that National asked all branch and state policy chairs to use its new online tool to submit a letter to the editor (LTE) on gender pay equity. Specifically, the Biden Administration just mandated that salary history cannot be used in hiring new federal employees. The Paycheck Fairness Act, now before Congress, would extend that prohibition to all employers. The LTE should encourage passage of this act. Turns out the new tool was not quite like the 2-minute activist tool it was likened to; National gave a few talking points but nothing like a full LTE draft. Nevertheless, Judy pulled data from AAUW's latest gender pay gap research and from information on the Paycheck Fairness act and wrote an LTE. National is supposed to submit it to local papers.

**Legislative session:** Nina reported that both she and Meredith Machen think that SB137 (for school board training and campaign finance reporting) will pass if it gets on the House calendar before the session ends, February 15. Nina testified for two gun safety bills during the AAUW Legislative Day on January 29.

**AAUW-NM Advocacy Day at the Round House:** This was held on January 29.

**College & University Rep Report:** Maryjane Giesler was not present but emailed a report to Judy. She consulted with Jenny Duran at UNM- LA, who feels our \$1000 scholarship is adequate. Maryjane concurs with this opinion.

**DEI/Historian Report:** no report.

### **Programs Report:**

**February Program:** Our February program will be held on February 21 via zoom with Ellen Specter (First Born non-profit) giving the talk. Marilyn Doolen will introduce her to the branch. An announcement will be sent out prior to the zoom with an invitation to join the zoom group.

**March Program:** Our March program will be held on March 14, from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Mesa Public Library upstairs meeting rooms 2-3. Carla Rachkowski, Director of

Operations of the Regional Development Corporation (RDC), will be giving a talk. Linda will provide some information for the newspaper and the newsletter about this talk by February 19. No refreshments will be served. We will ask Carla to talk 30-40 minutes with time for questions and answers following Carla's talk.

### **Council Minutes of AAUW Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

Tech Trek untea: Judy will call Carol Neal to see if she can help this year. Nina Thayer said she would also assist. Nina noted that State will give \$2,500 for this event. The Untea party will be especially important this year. Helena Whyte passed on to the council that only one person from each school will be chosen, and maybe not all schools can be represented. We will only have openings for 48 students due to dorm availability.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Science Fair Judging: The Science Fair Judging was held January 20. Marilyn Doolen, Denise George, Mary Ann Lindahl and Esther Hessong, from the Lab, volunteered to judge. A good time was had by all. Denise will put copies of any thank you notes that come to us in the newsletter.

Newsletter content/deadline: February 19 will be the deadline for input.

Next Coordinating Council meeting: March 26, 2024 at 2:00 pm by Zoom.

Spring Tea: Nina suggested we select a date for the Spring Tea. May 3 and May 10 are possible dates. Nina will check on the availability of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and let the council know the outcome.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda McLellan, Secretary

## **Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at the home of Mary Ann Lindahl at 2:18 pm on March 26, 2024.

**Members present:** Judy Prono, Mary Ann Lindahl, Linda McLellan, Bev Cooper and Nina Thayer.

**Members absent:** Denise George, Maryjane Giesler, Helena Whyte, Carroll Thomas, Alahna Weller, and Marilyn Doolen.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 8, 2024 Council Meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

### **Facilitator Report:**

- **FY23 Five Star Recognition Program:** achieved 2 stars for outstanding contributions in Programs and Governance and Sustainability—Online Branch achieved 3 stars.
- **AAUW-NM State Convention:** May 17-18 in Alamogordo: starts @1 pm Friday, ends 4 pm Saturday; theme is “Successful Women and How to be One”. Nina Thayer will be in attendance. Mary Ann Lindahl may be able to attend. A major business issue will be finalizing and adopting new Bylaws for AAUW-NM that define how it will be restructured.
- **Tech Trek essays/interviews:** All the essay scoring has been done. The interviews have been set up and are being conducted. Nina asked if we can get information from State on how many checks they received and the total amount donated for Tech Trek from Los Alamos. Judy will check with Helena Whyte.

**Treasurer Report:** Mary Ann Lindahl did not have a report available.

**Membership Report:** Mary Ann Lindahl updated us on membership. She has talked to National and will call again about Rosemarie Fredrickson, Nancy Nunnelley, Sue Watts and Ginny White. She will check about Chris Sierk being an honorary life member. Jeri Hertzman and Lynn Jones are now on the National list.

**Public Policy Report:** Nina Thayer and Judy Prono: no report this meeting.

**College & University Report:** Maryjane Giesler: no report this meeting.

**DEI/Historian Report:** Marilyn Doolen: no report this meeting.

**Programs:**

Get-out-the-vote party: The voting takes place for National between April 3 and May 15. Every member with an email will be sent a ballot and password. If there is not an email, a ballot will be mailed out. Several members will bring laptops to the Spring Tea to assist members in voting at the National level.

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**Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

Spring Tea: Nina Thayer will arrange with Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the “gathering space” for our Spring Tea on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Tea will go from 3:30 – 6:00 pm.

- Council election. Carroll Thomas, Linda McLellan and Judy Prono will start their second year of their term. Alahna Weller and Maryjane Giesler will have “termed out”, having served 6 years. Mary Ann Lindahl and Marilyn will be eligible for re-election. That will leave us with 4 more openings on the Council. Bev Cooper is willing to become a council member and continue to do publicity. Mary Ann Lindahl will continue as treasurer and she will call Sue Watts to see if she will come on the council. Mary Ann will ask Maryjane Giesler if she can continue her Univ Rep position as an appointed member. Cynthia Biddlecomb is another possibility and Judy Prono will contact her. Judy will talk with Marilyn Doolan to see if she will continue on the council. Nina will talk to Karen Henderson as a possible council member. Maybe Denise George will come back on as a council member. We need between 7 and 9 council members.
- Refreshments: Nina will take care of beverages and arrange for other tea items from other council members.
- Program: Our Scholarship recipient will be asked to say a few words. Carol Neal will have an update on the Fire Book Committee. Laptops will be provided to assist members in the National voting. Mary Ann, Judy and Linda will bring laptops. We can ask members for suggestions for programs for the coming year. An update will be given on Tech Trek.

Possible suggestions for programs: We could ask the County Administrator to speak, a program could be given on LANL’s summer students, and Kristen Henderson from N3B could be contacted to speak about remediation and radioactive waste at the Laboratory (maybe for the Fall Luncheon).



## **Old Business**

Science Fair: We got several thank you notes. Mary Ann will forward them to Denise for the newsletter, if there are additional notes.

## **New Business**

Newsletter content/deadline: Judy will talk to Denise about the deadline since she is out of town.

National election info: Open Membership Q&A will be on April 2.

**Next Coordinating Council meeting:** May 2, 2024 and the meeting will be held by zoom.

**Adjourn:** 3:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McLellan, Secretary

## **Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 2:07 pm on May 2, 2024.

**Members present:** Denise George, Linda McLellan, Judy Prono, Nina Thayer, and Marilyn Doolen.

**Members absent:** Beverly Cooper, Helena Whyte, Carroll Thomas, Mary Ann Lindahl, Maryjane Giesler and Alahna Weller.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 26, 2024 Council Meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.

### **Facilitator Report:**

- Council election: Only six volunteers so far—Carroll Thomas, Linda McLellan and Judy Prono start their second years; Bev Cooper, Denise George, Nina Thayer and Mary Ann Lindahl are up for election. Sue Watts is still a possibility. Someone else will have to take over hospitality from Nina Thayer. We still need two council members and a hospitality chair. Hospitality includes the Christmas Luncheon, Spring Tea and the Fall Luncheon. Denise will mention these items in the newsletter.
- Tech Trek update: 52 campers from 50 school districts are invited. Helena Whyte said the Untea added \$3,000 from the Los Alamos Branch. Helena will make a few comments at the Spring Tea.

**Treasurer Report:** Mary Ann said the bank balance as of 2/29/24 was \$4,168.88. The bank balance was \$4,189.06 on 3/31/24. She will follow up on Chris Sierk being an Honorary Life Member.

We voted via email to give the League of Women Voters \$50.00 toward their primary voter guide and will be listed as a supporter of that guide.

### **Membership Report:**

- Membership list discrepancies with National are being looked into by Mary Ann.
- In limbo: Rosmarie Frederickson, Jeri Herzman, Lynn Jones, Nancy Nunnelley, Sue Watts and Ginny White.
- Marilyn Thayer keeps “falling off” the membership list.

**Public Policy Report:** no report

**College & University Report:** no report

**DEI/Historian Report:** no report

**Council Minutes of AAUW Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

## **Programs Report:**

Spring Tea: Friday, May 10, 2024 from 4:00- 5:30 pm

- Refreshments. Marilyn Doolan will bring meringues, Linda will bring two dozen deviled eggs,  
Judy will bring cookies, Denise will bring cheese and crackers, Nina will take care of beverages and mixed nuts and Mary Ann will bring cucumber sandwiches.
- Judy, Nina, Denise and Linda will help set up the food and computers at 3:30 pm. Marilyn will stay to help cleanup.
- Denise will ask for an RSVP for the Spring Tea in the next newsletter to give us an idea how much food to make. RSVP's will be given to Nina Thayer.
- Laptops for voting: Denise and Judy will bring laptops. Nina will procure the password from the church. Members need to bring their voting number and password from National, if they want to vote at the Spring Tea.
- Helena Whyte will attend and give an update on Tech Trek
- Amber Ferree, our UNM-LA scholarship recipient, has been invited to attend. Denise suggested someone talk to Amber on the phone and get some information, if she cannot attend. Marilyn will work with Carol Neal and follow through with Amber.
- Update on scholarship funds with UNM Foundation: a discussion was held about whether one or two scholarships will be provided. Denise suggested we put out a call to see if more money for scholarships will be donated.
- Update on AAUW dues renewal: Mary Ann would like us to hand or send her the check so that she can keep track of who has paid and keep copies of the checks. Dues are \$110.00. National dues are now all tax deductible. Denise will put this in the newsletter.
- Honorary Life Membership certificates: We will honor Helena Whyte, Karin Roberts, Nina Thayer, Mona Wecksung, Adda Moldt and Judy Crocker.

**Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

Joint Council meeting: We will have a meeting by zoom on May 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm. Jobs will assigned at this meeting. Linda will stay as Secretary and Nina will do Public Policy. We will discuss the budget and the Fall Luncheon.

**Old Business:**

League of Women Voters Fall Voter Guide: Denise made a motion to continue supporting the League of Women Voters Guide with \$50.00 toward the Fall Guide and Nina seconded the motion; the motion passed. We will make the donation in August.

**New Business:** None

Next Coordinating Council Meeting: the joint meeting will be by zoom on May 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda McLellan, Secretary

## May 16, 2024 AAUW-LA Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 2:08. Present were Judy Prono, Denise George, Laura Loving, Mary Ann Lindahl.

As there was not a quorum, no official business was conducted.

Officer responsibilities for 2024-2025:

Judy Prono: facilitator

Laura Loving: DEI, (diversity, equity, inclusion)

Denise George: Newsletter, WEB

Nina Thayer: Public Policy

Mary Ann Lindahl: Treasurer, Membership

Bev Cooper: Publicity

Karin Roberts: Hospitality

Carroll Thomas: At large

Helena Whyte: Stem (appointed)

The council would like a co-facilitator.

Council also needs an historian.

Treasurer's Report, Mary Ann Lindahl:

\$385 was donated to the AAUW-LA scholarship at UNM-LA for female non-traditional students at the spring tea.

Many members renewed at the tea. Of current members, 19 members will be reminded to pay their membership dues in June and 6 in August.

Mary Ann will check the mailbox for more dues and scholarship contributions when she returns to Los Alamos.

Facilitator Report, Judy Prono:

There is no information to report on the current balance of our scholarship account at UNM-LA.

An e-vote will be sent to council members to approve a \$100 donation to Bethlehem Lutheran Church as a thank you for allowing us to use their facility this past year.

AAUW National reported that the by-laws change to eliminate education requirements for membership failed: 65.1% of voters approved, but 66.6% approval was needed to pass.

National will require all branches to amend their by-laws to reflect other changes made in National's bylaws.

Karin Roberts has agreed to assume the hospitality chair.

Maryjane Giesler is scheduled for surgery on May 28. She does not know if she will be returning to teaching at UNM-LA, and the status of university representative is unknown.

Newsletter Report, Denise George:

There will be a summer brief newsletter to remind members of the July nonfiction book group meeting and of the upcoming fall lunch. There will also be a September newsletter that will be circulated in late August.

Send Denise content of interest to our members, and she will send it along to our members.

Future Programs:

Fall luncheon will be held on Saturday, September 14, noon. Karin Roberts will be asked to reserve Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the event. If there is a local Tech Trek camper, we will ask her to speak to us.

Judy mentioned that Karen Williams, Director of Development at UNM-LA, had mentioned plans to her for hosting women speakers at UNM-LA as fundraisers during the coming year. Judy will put Laura Loving in contact with Williams to follow up about our branch possibly co-sponsoring programs by women speakers on topics of interest to women.

Mary Ann Lindahl will contact the LANL employee who runs the LANL student summer program about speaking at one of our meetings.

Laura Loving suggested a program about young female entrepreneurs, noting she had attended a presentation at Northern NM College by one who owns a food truck. Council discussed using such a food truck to cater the fall lunch and asking the owner to talk to us about the process of starting a business and making it a success.

As Ruby K's status is unknown, using one of Laura Crucet's establishments (Pig & Fig) to cater lunch and also talk to us about running a business in LA was suggested. So we have some good program ideas to consider.

Next council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15, 2:00pm by Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm

## **Sept 12, 2024 Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 2:08 p.m. on September 12, 2024.

**Members present:** Denise George, Mary Ann Lindahl, Laura Loving, Linda McLellan, Judy Prono, Bev Cooper and Nina Thayer.

**Members absent:** Karin Roberts, Helena Whyte, Carroll Thomas and Maryjane Giesler.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the August 15, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

### **Facilitator's Report:**

AAUW Member Gathering: 9/10 Webinar

- Cheryl Sorokin, Board Chair: Increase AAUW's impact by getting all members to be 2-minute activists; have branches focus on mission-based programs. The link is on our website.
- Gloria Blackwell, CEO: NCCWSL had 500 attendees; new College/Univ Rep toolkit online; about 1/3 of the branches participated in the 5 Star program in 2023; 2024 surveys will be emailed 9/12.
- Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement: 2025 5 Star Program will include more ways to earn stars; focus is to align branch activities with AAUW mission.
- Megan Kissell, Director of Policy: Title IX rules strengthened this spring (24 states recognize new rules, 26 states challenging them in courts); ERA close but not there yet; 2-minute activist = basis for AAUW impact on federal/state policy.

**Treasurer/Membership Report:** Mary Ann discussed with the council the 2024/25 budget proposal. She will send out a final version of the budget before the Fall Luncheon to be reviewed by the council. We have a bank balance of \$4,179.91 as of 8/31/24.

As of September 5, we have 46 members, 8 are honorary lifetime.

**College/University Report:** no report. Judy will call Maryjane to see if there is an update on scholarships for the Fall Luncheon.

**DEI Report:** Laura Loving gave us a write up on the "Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity" and discussed these points with us. Laura participated in a meeting



with other chairs of DEI and staff people in AAUW. Diversity begins with each one of us. Laura said we could look at ourselves in relation to diversity and model these behaviors in our group. She would be happy to present a two minute presentation at the Fall Luncheon. Laura observed that National does not have any plans of action to counter current pushback against DEI initiatives. Laura suggests we think out of the box and think about how we might do things differently. A program could include a survey within the branch of how we see DEI. Judy commented this is very mission focused.

### **Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

#### **Programs Report:**

Fall Luncheon: The luncheon will be held, Saturday, September 28, from 11:30-2:00 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

- 20 RSVPs, including Council members and 5 branch guests: put out call for RSVPs
- Karin's report: we are planning for 25 and Karin is coordinating the food with Ruby K's. Coffee and ice water will be served. Cost will be \$15.00 each.
- Program: Bailey Garcia, Tech Trek camper (Marilyn Doolen will introduce)
- Helena Whyte, Tech Trek video and projector. She has videos of the camp and three girls from Albuquerque who went to the camp several years back during which they discuss the impact of the camp in their schooling.
- Kristen Henderson, NB3 Los Alamos. Linda will introduce Kristen. Linda will ask Kristen to bring a flash drive for her presentation.

#### **Branch meeting:**

1. 2024/25 budget approval; Mary Ann will bring copies of the budget and make a brief presentation
2. DEI presentation, Laura
3. Book groups, Karin & Denise
4. Great Decisions, Denise
5. Out 'n About, Nina/Laura will discuss a visit to the Maxwell Museum Exhibit in Albuquerque on the 1930's Navajo livestock reduction program to see the exhibit "Nothing left for me". A curator will give us a tour. Saturday,

November 9, is being proposed by Nina/Laura for the trip. Nina/Laura will bring a brochure and a sign-up sheet. Lunch at the Native American museum cafe nearby could be part of the day out. Denise suggested visiting Los Luceros near Alcalde on October 9, Wednesday. October colors would enhance the trip and the weather should still be good. It is 148 acre ranch on the east bank of the Rio Grande River. A territorial style hacienda and other structures can be visited. You can take a guided tour with your cell phone. Denise will discuss the trip and will put out a sign-up sheet at the Fall Luncheon.

6. Honorary Lifetime Member awards for Judy Crocker, Mona Wecksung, if they attend, Judy.

October program: October 9, Los Luceros, will be our October program.

### **Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch (continued)**

#### Other program ideas:

- Denise: Ask Abbey Hayward from the County Utility Department to speak about water, energy and conservation efforts in the county.
- Nina Thayer: "Off-Grid: Women of the Mesa" art show at Mesa Library (Beverly Branch)
- Bev Cooper: speaker from County's Leadership Training program to talk about its impact on women in particular. Bev will check into this further.
- Mary Ann: presentation by woman who runs LANL's student summer program
- Christmas luncheon will be discussed at a later date.

**New Business:** none

**Newsletter content/deadline:**

We need to stress to get out and vote! Early voting starts October 8 and Denise will include the places to vote and dates. We will offer rides for voting day, November 5<sup>th</sup>; Denise will coordinate for White Rock and Nina will coordinate the Hill. Information can be obtained from the League of Women Voters.

September 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the newsletter. Denise will send out a reminder about the Fall Luncheon, with September 16<sup>th</sup> the last date to RSVP.

**Next Coordinating Council meeting:** November 14, Thursday.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda McLellan, Secretary

## **9/28/24 Fall Luncheon of AAUW, Los Alamos Branch**

The Fall Luncheon was held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on September 28, 2024 and commenced around 11:30 a.m. Luncheon was served and enjoyed by the 27 attendees.

Our first speaker was Bailey Garcia. She was a Tech Trek attendee this past summer and spoke to us about her experiences at camp. She was very enthusiastic about attending Tech Trek. Helena then gave an overview of Tech Trek and showed a slide show which highlighted some of each day's activities.

Linda McLellan introduced our main speaker, Kristin Henderson, J.D., from Newport Nuclear News BWXT Los Alamos (N3B). Kristin is the Stakeholder Affairs Lead at N3B. She showed a slide show during her talk and presented a fascinating overview of both the scope and politics of legacy cleanup at LANL. We all came away with a better understanding of what is being done.

We had a branch meeting and discussed the following topics:

- Mary Ann Lindahl presented the 2024/2025 proposed budget. Helena made a motion which was seconded by Nina and the budget was unanimously passed.
- Laura Loving gave a brief presentation on DEI and gave us a handout entitled "Waterline of Visibility" for us to look over and discuss further in the future.
- Karin Roberts talked about our fiction book group and left handouts for anyone interested in joining the group. Denise George talked about the non-fiction book group and left a sign-up sheet at the front table for anyone interested in attending.
- Great Decisions study group was also discussed by Denise. She gave a brief overview of the group and left a sign-up sheet at the front table along with a list of topics for anyone interested in signing up.
- Out'N About: Denise talked about the first Out'N About which will take place on October 9, to visit Los Luceros near Alcalde. Lunch will be in Espanola at La Cosina on the way back to Los Alamos. Laura Loving discussed an upcoming Out'N About to the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at UNM to see the exhibit "Nothing Left for Me". After we coordinate with a museum employee for our tour, a date will be decided upon for the Out'N About.
- Honorary lifetime membership awards were given to Judy Crocker and Mona Wecksung. Each awardee said a few words about how they came

to AAUW and memorable moments. These honorary lifetime awards come after 50 years of membership.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McLellan, Secretary

## **Nov 24 2024 Council Minutes of AAUW-Los Alamos Branch**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order on Zoom at 2:04 p.m. on November 14, 2024.

**Members present:** Denise George, Linda McLellan, Judy Prono, Karin Roberts, Bev Cooper, Mary Ann Lindahl, and Nina Thayer.

**Members absent:** Laura Loving, Maryjane Giesler and Helena Whyte.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the September 12, 2024 Council meeting and the September 28, 2024 Fall Luncheon were unanimously approved as submitted.

### **Facilitator's Report :**

- The Branch survey report was submitted 9/26/24. FY25 Five Star Criteria will have more options to choose from on criteria.
- Socorro Branch has dissolved.
- NCCWSL Update: AAUW is no longer hosting program: National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) will run the program now. The costs are not sustainable for AAUW to continue to run.
- Leadership Team Meeting: Denise reported that at the November 2, 2024 meeting, they discussed how they would sponsor the AAUW-NM Leadership Team Meeting (LTM) and Lobby Day activities, February 9-10, 2025. Denise indicated registration for the event will be \$50 per person and it will be held at the Hotel de Santa Fe.

**Treasurer/Membership Report:** Mary Ann Lindahl reported our balance in the bank is \$4,834.28.

- New Member: Paulette Woodall, 3 Mariposa Ct, White Rock ([paulettewoodall@gmail.com](mailto:paulettewoodall@gmail.com))
- Currently, we have 50 members—but Marilyn Thayer is not on the National roster (she is an honorary life member).

**College/University Report:** UNM-LA scholarship update from Judy. Marilyn Doolen says Maryjane has been in touch with Jenny Duran at UNM-LA and she will have candidate names in November. We will offer one scholarship.

**DEI Report:** Laura Loving was not in attendance but she gave a written report for us to review which is attached.

### **Programs Report:**

- **November 17, 2024, at 4 pm: Join AAUW-NM Online Branch Zoom meeting, “Election 2024 in NM: Path Forward for the 2025 NM Legislature”**—speakers are Meredith Machen, AAUW-NM Public Policy chair and Representative Christine Chandler.
- **Christmas lunch at Rancho de Chimayo:** It was discussed that we move this luncheon to the week of Valentine’s Day. We will decide the February luncheon at a later date.
- **January 6, 2025, 7-9 pm, Legislative Preview at Fuller Lodge**  

Need to coordinate refreshments with LWV: Refreshments will be at 6:30 p.m. Karin will talk with Wendy Swanson of LWV to coordinate refreshments.

AAUW will provide the moderator— Judy has asked Margo Batha to re-up. Judy could be moderator if Margo is not available.

Judy noted that AAUW will pay half of Fuller Lodge rental fee. Mary Ann will take care of paying this fee to LWV.
- **Other program ideas—updates:**  

Laura Loving: UNM Maxwell Museum exhibit on 1930’s Navajo livestock reduction program. The museum can do this tour in April and we need to send them a date, possibly April 5 or 26.

Bev Cooper: speaker from County’s Leadership Training program to talk about its impact on women in particular. Kirsten Bell will do a talk. Bev will discuss a date in February with her. Another possibility is a talk about disabilities through Lemonade Living.

Nina Thayer: “Off-Grid: Women of the Mesa” art show at Mesa Library (Beverly Branch). Nina will talk to her about speaking at the Spring Tea in early May 2025 and bringing a slide show. We will also ask our scholarship recipient to come and be at the Tea to talk about what the scholarship meant to her.

Mary Ann Lindahl: presentation by woman who runs LANL’s student summer program. Mary Ann will contact her and see if she would be interested in speaking to us about the program.

Denise George: Abbey Hayward, County Utility Dept, could talk on County conservation work. Denise has not discussed this with her yet. Maybe this would be a good program for next year.

Maybe in March we could do something with DEI and use some of Laura's ideas.

**Old Business:**

- Any takers for rides to vote? No one asked for a ride, but two people told Nina they thought it was a good idea.
- LA Cares Service Project : Denise talked to LA Cares and we are going to do the same kind of fruit as last year through the LA Cares account to get their discount. The money is sent to Denise rather than AAUW to stay within legal guidelines. There will be 98-100 bags of fruit. Denise will send out a notice that this is our December activity and we will need helpers to pack the fruit and make bows.
- Science Fair judging: Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 9-12 at Barranca Mesa Elementary School; Karen Henderson is coordinating and \$150 is budgeted for prizes. Mary Ann will bring cash for the prizes. Seven AAUW members will act as special judges.

**New Business:**

None

**Newsletter content/deadline:**

National is updating branch website "themes" such as the color of the logo, headers, backgrounds, etc.

National request for inclusion in newsletters: They would like to be included about what National is doing, and perhaps we could put some small articles. Judy will send Denise some information.

Deadline for content: November 20.

**Next Coordinating Council meeting:** January 16, 2025.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. Respectfully submitted: Linda McLellan, Secretary