



Desert Doings

The Newsletter of West Mesa Branch, AAUW

April 2010

Happy Spring! I think it's here. This is the longest and coldest winter since I moved to New Mexico in 2005, and I will be very happy to break out the sunscreen again.

We do not have a branch meeting in April, but I encourage all of you to attend the *Women Across Borders* conference on Saturday, April 17. President Ted Cooley and the Albuquerque branch have done a marvelous job putting this program together. The reservation deadline for the conference is April 10, and it is expected to fill completely, so send your registration ASAP. Forms for the conference and the state convention to be held Saturday night and Sunday morning can be found in the spring *Roadrunner*, http://www.aauw-nm.org/state_newsletters/RoadrunnerSpring2010.pdf

We will be voting on the revised AAUW-NM by-laws.

I know you will enjoy Pat Maben's very informative article in this issue about changing the culture of nursing homes. Please let Pat know of your interest and plan to attend the May 8 meeting which will be dedicated to organizing our efforts and formulating an action plan. We are very happy to have Pat's expertise and experience to guide us. Your help will make a difference.

Your West Mesa board met on March 1, 2010. We have a slate of officers for next year as follows:

President - Cheryl Klenner
VP/Membership - Jo Rose
Recording Secretary - Merry Sisneros (for one year)
Treasurer - Mimi Salinger
AAUW funds chair - Mimi Salinger
Newsletter Editor - Kathy Lowry
Public Policy - Dixie Trebbe

These past two years, I feel I have been president, program, and hospitality chair all in one, and I was reluctant to agree to another term for that reason. The board really brainstormed hard, and together we have become pretty well organized for next year, so I am grateful for this support and pleased to continue as branch president. If you have suggestions for programs and/or meeting places, please let a board member know. Also, please think about serving on the board in some capacity in the future.

For your calendars, here are the dates for our meetings next year: September 11, October 16, November 13, January 8, 2011, February 12, March 12, and May 14. We are still in need of a location for the October 16 meeting, which will be our 3rd annual "non-event"

fundraiser for AAUW Funds. Please let me know if we can eat at your house or if you would like further details (307-9118).

Lastly, I would like to thank Jo Rose and Mimi Salinger for assisting me at the AAUW-NM table at the Women's Expo on March 6. We talked to many women who had not heard of AAUW, and Jo and Mimi made contacts for branch programs for this fall. Thanks again.

-- CHERYL

In Memoriam



Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of long-time, active AAUW member Kathy Oppenheimer who died Friday, March 19. Those who wish to express their condolences may do so at www.danielsfuneral.com.

Culture Change and Nursing Homes

Patricia Maben, RN, MN

In the early 90's nursing homes in the states of Washington, Minnesota, and New York made the decision that the care of elders in nursing homes needed to be changed. As the result of pioneering work by a few facilities, a more humane system for caring for elders has developed. Since 2006, the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS) has promoted the concept of culture change through education of both providers and the public. In some states such as Kansas, Colorado, Rhode Island and the states mentioned above, culture change principles have been encouraged by state survey agencies. CMS believes that these principles should be the norm.

Why is this an issue for AAUW? Most of our members are women. Women are the caregivers of frail elders in their families. The age of the AAUW membership is also older. An older woman is more likely to use a nursing home than an older man. By looking at past trends, researchers predict that (for people who turned 65 years in 1990) 52 percent of all women will spend some time in a nursing home, while only 33 percent of all men will.¹ Individuals without children, a spouse, or other family members to provide informal care at home are more likely to use a nursing home. For example, one study found that approximately one-quarter of those who were married at the time of death had spent time in a nursing home. In contrast, over two-fifths of the people widowed, divorced, or never married at death had used a nursing home.²

Culture change principles include the following:

Residents live in smaller groups called neighborhoods or households. Direct care staff are assigned permanently to each neighborhood or household. Residents and staff get to know each other as individuals.

The resident or an advocate directs care provided to the resident. The staff is responsible for finding out what the resident's usual routines are, and their choices and preferences. At what time did the resident normally get up in

the morning? What do they like to eat for breakfast? What was the normal rhythm of their day? It is the responsibility of the staff to adapt to the resident rather than the resident having to conform to the facility's "schedule"

Decision making about day-to-day operations occur at the neighborhood or household level. Leadership's role is to provide resources and counsel to the teams providing care and services to the residents.

The use of versatile employees ensures that there is someone immediately available to assist residents. Most of the non-licensed staff receives state and federal required education as nurse aides or medication aides. Homemakers prepare food and serve meals. All staff that work with residents have training in food handling so that there is always someone qualified to prepare a snack or a meal for a resident. All team members have received training in housekeeping procedures. Team members assigned to a household or neighborhood are responsible for ensuring that all care and services are provided. This means that the resident has to interact with fewer individuals. Team members know their resident's preferences and choices.

Many facilities have remodeled their facilities are in newly built facilities that create a more home like atmosphere. However there are successful culture change facilities that due to fiscal restraints cannot remodel or build new.

It has been proposed that a task force of interested West Mesa AAUW members be formed. I have prepared a short questionnaire. Members that would like to participate would be asked to go to selected nursing homes to collect information about their status related to culture change. Hopefully we will find a couple of facilities that are participating in the movement. A handout would be developed providing the facility with internet resources that provide information about culture change.

I have purchased a 15-minute video that explains culture change. I am willing to go to church and civic groups to talk about changing nursing homes. I can develop a script that task force members could use if they would be willing to present a program.

I would like to have permission to develop a handout that could be given to the public about the need to change nursing homes. Only when the public demands change will it happen. People have to be informed that there is a better way to receive long term than what is offered in most facilities.

Hopefully other branches would be willing to join us in finding out about their local facilities and spreading the word about Culture Change.

I had a conversation with Elayne Villa of the New Mexico Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). The New Mexico QIO has a contract with CMS to promote culture change in this state. We plan to meet the first week of April to discuss how our two organizations could work together to promote positive change in nursing homes. I will present this information at the May West Mesa AAUW meeting. At this meeting we will discuss organizing a task force to study this issue and hopefully develop a process to educate both nursing facilities and the public about improving the lives of elders that live in nursing facilities.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at pam1246@me.com or 994-1558.

¹ Kemper, P. & Murtaugh, C. (1991, February). *Lifetime Use of Nursing Home Care*. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, v324, 595-600.

² Tucker, N., Kassner, E., Mullen, F., & Coleman, B. (2000, May). *Long-Term Care* [Online]. Available at: research.aarp.org/health/fs27r_care.html

AAUW-NM revised by-laws vote will be April 18

The completed and revised AAUW-NM bylaws are now posted for viewing on the www.aauw-nm.org website. They are available under "Governance" on the site. Many hours of work and many emails have gone into this completed document. The generalities of the changes were discussed at the Winter Leadership Team Meeting in Santa Fe and they are stated in the most recent *Roadrunner*. We will vote on the acceptance of the new bylaws at the State Convention in Albuquerque on April 18th.

PLEASE take the time to visit the website and read the bylaws document. The time for the business meeting at Convention is very condensed and if everyone attending is familiar with the document, it will greatly expedite the discussion!



Why So Few?

In an era in which women are increasingly represented in medicine, law, and business, why do they continue to lag behind men in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics? On March 15, AAUW released a new report that that can help to explain this puzzle.

[*Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*](#) is a comprehensive report on the controversial issue of the continued underrepresentation of women in these fields. The report was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the AAUW Letitia Corum Memorial Fund, the AAUW Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle, and the AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

Drawing upon a large and diverse body of research, AAUW's report provides compelling evidence of environmental and social barriers - including unconscious gender bias, stereotypes, and the climate within college and university science and engineering departments - that continue to limit women's participation and progress. The report also includes up-to-date statistics on girls' and women's achievement and participation in these areas and offers new ideas for what each of us can do to more fully open scientific and engineering fields to girls and women.

A presentation and panel discussion was scheduled in Washington, D.C. for Thursday, March 25. For more information on the report and to download your copy, go to aauw.org/WhySoFew.



Public Policy:

Legislative Report March 6, 2010

During this legislative session there was a lot of work not done. In some ways that is good because some of the suggested bills did not benefit the people of New Mexico. This was not a good year to recommend the 'citizen legislature'

Only a few bills off of my list were signed. A lot of Memorials were signed. The memorials assign a certain day of the year in honor of something such as boy scouts or the submarine New Mexico or they allow a study for one year on a subject or continue a study from a previous year if they don't think they got enough information or if it didn't prove what they wanted.

Bills:SB 195 Sunshine Portal Transparency Act. By Senator Sander Rue, was signed as amended, by Lt. Gov. Denish 3/5/2010 while the Governor was out of state. This bill sets up web site rules and a date to show salaries paid to appointed state employees. This is the bill Mr. Vasquez mentioned to us on Lobby Day when he reviewed the bills the Lt. Gov.'s office was watching .

HB 64 School Equalization Distribution Date Changed by Rep. Rick Miera was signed Feb. 5th. Concerns Public School Finance. Allowing the State Equalization Guarantee Distribution Program Unit Value to be set at a date later than Jan. 31, 2010: Provides for adjustment in anticipation of Federal State Fiscal Stabilization Funding: Declared an Emergency.

HB 165 Whistleblower Protection Program by Rep. J. Cervantes was signed March 1st. It was related to Public Employment: Prohibits Public Employer Retaliatory Action Against Public Emp[loyees in certain situations: Created a right to Civil Action for damages.

HB 2 General Appropriation Act of 2010 by Rep. H, Saavedra passed both the House and Senate as amended on March 3rd but I have not heard that it was signed yet. This represents the Legislative Finance Committee's recommendations for funding operations of state government but was trimmed considerably in the Special Session.

The memorials on my list were: HM 2 NM Speech, Language, and Hearing Association Day by Rep. Jeanette Wallace. Signed

HM16 NMSU Course on Elected Official Ethics by Rep. N. Cote Signed. Request to develop an Ethics course for public officials and be given as part of the orientation training.

HM9 Continue Review of State transportation Needs by Rep. P. Lundstrom. Signed. Request a continuation of 2009 review of state's current and future transportation needs to identify appropriate funding strategies for a sustainable transportation system.

HM 28 Medicaid Importance and Task Force by Rep. M. Stewart. Signed. Opposed drastic reductions in Medicaid eligibility and benefits. Request a task force to recommend improvements to the Medicaid program to use available resources and meet federal requirements.

HM 29 Policy for Detention of 18 to 20 yr. olds by Rep. Rick Miera. Signed. Requests CYFD to convene a group to create policy for detention of youth 18 to 20 yrs. Of age.

HM 31 Female Prison Population Task Force by Rep. G. Chasey Signed. Request 2008 Task Force continue working to implement and design effective solutions for female population in corrections system.

HM 35 Economic Security of NM Women and families by Rep. D. Picraux. Signed. Requests Task Force assess and recommend policy options to address economic security and health and perform a statewide survey of employee benefits.

HM 46 Study Readings and Math Scores and Dropout Rates by Rep. J. Steinborn. Signed. Request Public Education Dept. study the correlation between 4th and 8th grade reading and math proficiency scores and high school dropout rates.

HR 1 House Webcasting of Video and Committees by Rep. K. Gardner. Signed. Expand live audio streaming of House proceedings to include Video and committee meetings held in the chamber.

National comment: I spoke to Rep. BR Lujan yesterday. He assured me that he is not backing the Stupack Amendment and that the US House has no intention of re-enforcing the Bush tax cuts to the high income levels. He also said he didn't intend to vote for anything that penalized women, families, and seniors to the benefit of the higher income groups. In this regard, US Rep. Teague was the only New Mexican in DC who voted both 'yes' to the Stupak-Pitts Amendment and 'no' on healthcare reform as a whole. This amendment bans most government funding of abortion including the use of Medicaid payments to pay insurance premiums to companies that carry abortion insurance. This is contrary to the NM Constitution. The only exceptions are cases of rape, incest, or imminent danger to a mother's life. By the time you get this you should have received an article from me about Rep. Bart Stupak, Michigan.

Dixie Trebbe, Legislative Chair

Calendar

April 1 Annual Reports due from State Officers & Branch Presidents
Deadline: Submissions for New Mexico's MBC Ingenious Ideas Branch Recognition

April 16-18 AAUW-NM Convention and Leadership Team Meeting in conjunction with
Symposium "Women Across Borders," Albuquerque Branch hosting
(Files & handbooks updated by officers for successors)

April 20 Equal Pay Day

May 1 Deadline for Summer Roadrunner

*Keep up-to-date on state and other branch activities by visiting www.aauw-nm.org
For national news, see www.aauw.org.*

Interest Groups

BRIDGE:

BRIDGE TIPS: Learn to play bridge or improve your skills. We welcome all. Meets at 1 p.m.

April 1 - Jane Ferguson

May 6 - Jana George

PARTY BRIDGE: Party Bridge meets the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. at the host's home. Please call the host if you would like to play.

April 8 - Merry Sisneros—890-1406

April 22 - Cheryl Klenner- - 307-9118

May 13 - Kathy Lowry -559-4929

May 27 - Jo Rose--897-3196

DINE AROUND: The last Dine Around of the season will be held at Jo and Bud Rose's on Sunday, April 25th at 6pm. Call Jo to let her know you're coming (897-3196) and what you'll bring to the potluck.

NOBLE READERS will meet at the Barnes and Noble coffee shop at 9:30 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Books for the upcoming meetings are:

Apr. 28 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larson
The Widow of the South by Robert Hicks

May 26 The Healing of America by T.R. Reid
Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder



West Mesa Branch