



Desert Doings

The Newsletter of West Mesa Branch, AAUW

September 2011

From the President

I am looking forward to seeing all of you on Saturday, September 10, at noon for our annual "non-event" fundraiser for AAUW funds. We'll have a good meal and you will get a tax deduction for your check for \$15 (or more!) to "AAUW Funds." My address is 10416 Calle Hermosa Ct NW in Albuquerque. Call me at 307-9118 if you need directions. Please RSVP to Marj Wyckoff at 349-3121 by Thursday, September 8. Our program is "What Every Woman Should Know About Medicare," with information from AARP.



Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 15, when our West Mesa branch is hosting the fall AAUW state leadership team meeting at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on American Road in Rio Rancho. We can look forward to a catered lunch and a wonderful program by Albuquerque writer Sherry Robinson, author of *Apache Voices*. Her program for the Los Alamos branch last year received rave reviews. Following will be a Power Point presentation on the June National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) by one of the three scholarship winners from New Mexico.

Cheryl 307-9118

Calendar

BRANCH MEETING Saturday, September 10 at noon at Cheryl Klenner's home 10416 Calle Hermosa Ct NW In Albuquerque. Call Cheryl at 307-9118 for directions. This will be our non-event fundraiser for AAUW Funds. Lunch will be prepared by branch members and will include salad, entrée, bread, beverage and dessert for \$15. Please RSVP by September 8 to Marj Wyckoff at 349-3121. Program will be on Women and Medicare.

Interest Groups

NOBLE READERS will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 24 at Barnes & Noble coffee shop. We will be selecting books to read for the coming year. If you want to spend time with interesting and fun women who love to read call Marj Wyckoff at 897-1150.

Great Decisions will be meeting September 14 at 7:00 PM at Fairwinds Retirement Community in Rio Rancho. Bob Long will be leading the discussion on Chapter 2, American National Security, in the Great Decisions Handbook. We invite all AAUW members to join us. Contact Laura Stokes at 328 1767 for more information.

DINE AROUND will meet at Cheryl Klenner's home 10406 Calle Hermosa Ct NW in Albuquerque on September 18th. Call Cheryl for more information.

PARTY BRIDGE will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 1 p.m. at the host's home. Please call the host in advance if you would like to play

Sept. 8 - Mimi Salinger--897-7906
Sept. 22 - Marianne Gardner--892-5971

Oct. 13 - Jane Komatz--896-6765
Oct. 27 - Merry Sisneros—890-1406

Nov. 10 - Cheryl Klenner--307-9118

Dec. 8 - Jane Ferguson--891-2466

Public Policy News

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, which is chaired by Dede Feldman, met in Taos to discuss Indian health care, insurance reforms and the state's implementation of the new federal health care law. The meeting came in the wake of the announcement that the Governor had signed on to a letter sent by seven other Republican governors asking for the repeal of the federal bill, and an earlier announcement that the administration is "modernizing" its Medicaid program via a private consultant. Taos Pueblo Governor Nelson Cordova pleaded with the committee to put aside partisan differences and come up with a universal health care plan that would serve the population of Taos Pueblo, many of whom are sick. Cordova said when he went into members' homes; their kitchen tables were often piled high with medical bills and letters from insurance companies. He views health care as a human right and reminded the committee that the federal health bill also included a permanent re-authorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. New Mexico just received \$2.6 million for school based health clinics, thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The assistance goes to Tierra Amarillo, Las Cruces, Las Vegas, Des Moines, and Albuquerque (UNM and the Native American Community).

Betty Walker Smith and I attended a LESC meeting mainly concerned with reforms needed to make the lottery scholarship system last longer. Several committees and studies are focused on this.

Two candidates are running for the Congressional District 1 seat now served by Martin Heinrich and three for the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by Senator Bingaman.

Redistricting is in the Works

The legislature expects to reconvene on September 6 in special session to redraw Congressional, legislative, judicial, and PRC districts so that they reflect population changes since 2000. "The task of redistricting is performed every ten years following the census. It is necessary to ensure that the populations of the various political districts are nearly equal. The legislature's redistricting website (<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/>) contains more information on state redistricting, including concepts that are under consideration, contact information for the committee's members and its staff, and demographic and political data" according to an August 4 press release. This is always a contentious process and local input is needed. To sign up to speak, contact Leslie Porter at (505) 986-4600 or leslieporter@nmlegis.gov.

Dixie Trebbe, Public Policy Chair

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

West Mesa Branch



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