



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

January 2021
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AAUW ABQ January Meeting
January 2, 2021
10:00-12:00 Noon
Via Zoom



Diane Torres Martinez

Update on Yazzie/ Martinez v. State of New Mexico

Diane Torres-Valesquez, PhD

The speaker at the January Branch meeting will be Diane Torres Valesquez, PhD. Dr. Torres Valesquez is an associate professor at the University of New Mexico specializing in bilingual and multi-cultural education. She is the author of several scholarly articles about the Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico lawsuit.

In 2018, a court ordered that the State of New Mexico must provide a sufficient education to all public-school students. The state was ordered to remedy failures in its education system. Specifically recognized were native students, English language learners, students from low-income families, and students with disabilities. Specifically recognized were native students, English language learners, students from low-income families, and students with disabilities. Dr. Torres-Velasquez will speak to the importance of this lawsuit for public school students and provide an update on the status of the lawsuit.

This meeting is open to the public. Please consider inviting people you believe would be interested in hearing this presentation. Just forward my e-mail with the link. The link to this Zoom presentation will be e-mailed to members on December 28 and again on January 1.

President's Message

The December meeting was very informative. Senator Sedillo Lopez shared with members her experiences as an advocate for social justice for Latina women. She discussed the issue of whether a client will testify against her abuser. She emphasized that each case is unique. She believes that the final decision must be the woman's not agency staff.

As a state senator she is looking forward to the 2021 legislature. As of the date of her presentation no decision had been made about where the legislature will meet. She emphasized that the focus on finding a safe way in this era of Covid that the public can communicate with their legislators safely.

Members asked many questions about this legislative session. She indicated that several of the bills AAUW NM is interested in will probably be considered: redistricting, education, and criminalization of abortion. A member spoke about the mail in voting system used in Colorado for many years. Her response was that this concept should be explored.

After the program, most of the members attending the Zoom presentation stayed for the break out session. One group had a lively discussion about how the branch could use social media to inform the community about AAUW issues and programs. Also how we could use social media to reach potential meetings. Jaclyn Page, Monique Dodd and Danielle Martin have offered to develop a program about this issue. Watch for information about this project in the February newsletter.

The Governance Task Force (Sylvia Fink, Mary Moskal, Janet Matwiyoff) met via Zoom with two members of the Los Alamos Branch who were involved in a change in governance over 25 years ago. The task force will be meeting after the holidays to develop a report to share with the full board in January. The issue that prompted this task force was the several years of difficulty recruiting members for the board, especially a president.

Each month additional members attend the Zoom meetings. Several have reported that the assistance they received in using Zoom from Cheri Burch, Danielle Martin and Rae Siporin has been very helpful. Even though a vaccine is now available, it is estimated that not until early summer will it be safe for us to meet together in person at a Branch meeting. Therefore, Joan Goodman and Ted Cooley are planning that the meetings in the spring of 2021 will be via Zoom.

Cheri Burch (286-9674), Rae Siporin (792-4913) and Danielle Martin (803-7519) are available to members to assist them in accessing branch meetings with Zoom,

Patricia Maben, President

Report from the Desk of the Public Policy Chair

By Pamela Herndon

2021 Legislative Session

As we prepare for the opening day of the 2021 Legislative Session, please take a few minutes to learn the names of the legislators that represent you. After you learn the names of your state legislators, the Public Policy Committee is asking you to send the Senator and the member of the House of Representative that represent your district a holiday card, or a note introducing yourself, if you have not met them. It will be important to know your legislators and to engage with your legislative team during the upcoming session, as you help advocate for the passage of legislation that AAUW will support.

Legislation can be pre-filed from January 4 – January 15, 2021. Members of the Public Policy Committee together with members of the Lobby Corps will be reviewing the pre-filed legislation with eye toward selecting the top 10 pieces of legislation that AAUW will support during the legislative session.

Since the 2021 legislative session will be conducted as a virtual event, we will have to find innovative ways to engage with legislators. We will be able to leave telephone messages with the legislator's administrative team. In addition, legislators are being asked to share their cell numbers with their constituency as another way for the public to stay in contact with their legislators.

All legislative committee hearings will be available for viewing through the legislative website at www.nmlegis.gov. If anyone wants to speak during Committee hearings, they will have to request a special link to be admitted to the virtual committee meeting. Please note, there will be a special training on Saturday, January 16, 2021 from 11:00 am – 12noon to help interested individuals learn how to advocate for legislation in a virtual environment, during a pandemic.

We need every person to help advocate for legislation that supports the goals and mission of AAUW. Please contact Sylvia Fink at sjfink@gmail.com, or Sonya Berg at berg.sonya42@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the Lobby Corps. Please contact me at pamelyaherndon@gmail.com if you would like to become a member of the Public Policy Committee.

Community Outreach

As a part of our public policy outreach in support of good healthcare, the Public Policy Committee reminds everyone that the first trucks carrying the COVID-19 vaccines have arrived in New Mexico. If you would like to view a copy of the New Mexico Plan for distributing the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the Department of Health website at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/draft-vaccine-plan/>.

According to a briefing document released by the FDA's vaccine advisory committee, the most common side effects from taking the vaccine include having reactions at the point of injection on the body, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. The report further states that severe adverse reactions occurred in less than 4.6% of trial participants and were less frequent in older adults compared to younger participants.

The first COVID-19 vaccines were distributed in Britain approximately two weeks ago. Health authorities in the United Kingdom have said that people with "significant history of allergic reactions" should not receive the vaccine.

Interest Groups

A Governor's Public Health Order remains in effect. Most of the Interest Groups have decided not to plan for a meeting in January.

Current Literature: 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. January 12th at the home of Marilyn Dunn, 8620 Northeastern NE #9. Members will be nominating recently published books for the 2020-2021 travelling library (final selection to be made at February meeting). Time permitting a current book will be reviewed by Meg Wentz. Meeting will be cancelled if not allowed by the current Covid-19 restrictions and/or the weather conditions. Chair: **Liz Gordon, 344-7842.**

Evening Literature. 3rd Mondays, 6:00 p.m. If the Governor's Public Health Orders allow for meetings in homes we will meet on January 18 at the home of Sheila Richmond, 152 Juniper Hill Rd., NE. We will discuss *Little* by Edward Carey. Chair: **Sheila Richmond, 280-8904.**

Mystery. We'll be meeting again via Zoom on Thursday, January 7 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss "Song of Lions" by Anne Hillerman. Chair: **Diane Vadnais, 323-1924.**

Stem Task Force will meet via Zoom on **Thursday, January 21 at noon.**

Membership

Carolyn Glen has moved to Virginia to be closer to family. She would enjoy hearing from her friends in the branch. Her cell phone number remains the same at this time. 505-414-8350. Her mailing address is Carolyn Glenn Kaye, 48 Walker Drive, Unit 196, Warrenton, Va. 20186.

Calendar

Jan 2 AAUW ABQ Branch meeting

Jan 11 AAUW ABQ Board meeting

Jan. 19 Opening Day State Legislature

Jan. 28 Virtual Convenings begin!

Feb. 6. AAUW ABQ Branch meeting

Feb. 8. AAUW ABQ Board Meeting

Feb. TBD Lobby Corps Meetings in Albuquerque/Bernalillo

Feb. TBD Winter State Leadership Team Meeting in Santa Fe

Feb. TBD Legislative Day - Santa Fe, NM

Feb. 10 Deadline to Report Discrepancies in February 2021 Membership Count

Feb. 11 Asian Women Equal Pay Day

Feb. 15 Deadline for Spring Roadrunner

Feb. 16 NCCWSL early-bird registration ends & National Scholarships close

March Women's History Month

March 6 AAUW ABQ Branch meeting

March 8 International Women's Day

Mar. 20 Last day of State Legislature

April 3. AAUW ABQ Branch annual meeting

Apr. TBD AAUW-NM Spring Convention

May 1. AAUW ABQ President's Luncheon

May 15 Deadline for Summer Roadrunner

May TBD National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

June TBD Tech Trek – 2020 & 2021

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