



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

February 2021
Vol. 47 No, 8

**February Branch Meeting
10 AM to 12 Noon
Via Zoom**



Tech Trek in a Box

Last year the planned Tech Trek could not be held due to the pandemic. The creative STEM group on the state and local level created a unique project that allowed the girls accepted for the camp to have a STEM project last summer. Cheri Burch, our branch STEM chair will share how this group of creative women provided an exciting alternative for the camp. A group of 8th graders from the Albuquerque area will share their experiences with us their Tech Trek in a Box.

This year, two virtual camps will be held. Girls that were accepted for the 2020 will be able to attend a virtual camp June 20-25, 2021. Girls accepted for the 2021 virtual camp held July 18-23, 2021.

In order for the camp to be successful there will be a need for volunteers from our branch. Please consider joining Cheri and our STEM Task Force by volunteering to help ensure this camp is successful.

President's Message

Two important announcements have been issued by Board of Directors of AAUW recently. In December members were notified that there will be an increase in 2021 dues and a change in the bylaws related to qualifications to be a member of AAUW. A notice about a dues increase was sent out in December by the board president to all members. As with most organizations during this difficult time, AAUW Board of



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

Director's voted to raise the cost of membership by \$3 to \$62 effective in FY 2022, \$5 for FY 2023, and \$5 for FY 2024. All but \$3 of the annual dues are tax deductible.

Below is a copy of the notice sent to members earlier this month,

This spring each member of the Albuquerque Branch will have the opportunity to vote for a change in the requirements for membership which created a barrier for women who do not have a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW would become a more diverse and inclusive organization better aligned with the needs of women today.

The membership will vote on a change in the bylaws this spring. Below is information about the bylaw revision. The board believes that this change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with the mission of advancing equity for women and girls. The board statement states that "AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do."

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization. Now through February 5, 2021, you can comment on the proposed changes. All submitted comments or proposed changes will be reviewed by AAUW's staff and the AAUW Governance Committee. Debate on open membership will take place in national town halls and state and branch meetings this spring.

Members can comment on the proposed amendment from January 11 through February 5, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET. Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.

To comment to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSYB5YS>

Below is the website with information about the proposal and how to vote. Please consider taking the time to study this important issue and to vote.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

Martinez v. State of New Mexico

Diane Torres-Velasquez, PhD, associate professor in the College of Education and Human services at the University of New Mexico was the speaker for the branch meeting on January 9, 2021. Dr. Torres-Velasquez is a noted researcher in the area of multicultural education. She has been involved with the lawsuit *Martinez v. State of New Mexico* since its inception.

The first information she gave us was that the *Martinez v. State of New Mexico* lawsuit (2014) and a separate lawsuit, *Wilhelmina Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* (2014) are two separate lawsuits. The Martinez lawsuit was filed on behalf of fifty-one Latina, Latino and Native American parents on behalf of their children by the Mexican American Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) against the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). The Yazzie lawsuit was filed by the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty on behalf of school districts and New Mexican Families. The state district court that was hearing the two cases, consolidated the cases for trial. In 2018, the court found the case in favor of the plaintiffs and threatened to enjoin the state's school finance systems if the state did not correct the deficiencies.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund held a series of meetings across the state from Las Cruces, to Albuquerque, Suni, Magdalena, Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Española. People came forward and talked about their dissatisfaction with the education their children were receiving. They also expressed frustration with the challenges related to the current Department of Education. The lawsuit argued that the financial support for education of low-income students, English learners and students with disabilities was not adequate and therefore violated the children's right to a fundamental and sufficient education.

One of the most disturbing issues she raised was that there have been and may still be a prevailing perception among educators and legislators that Mexican American and native American students and their families do not value education. Through studies conducted by educational researchers demonstrated that this perception is erroneous. She shared several stories about children whose lives were changed dramatically after participating in multicultural classes.

Another major problem is that school textbooks do not include multicultural information. It is very important that indigenous, black, Mexican American and Asian children are exposed to their own history and that their cultures are honored. Dr. Torrez- Velasquez and other researchers have found that when



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

children of color participate in multicultural educational experiences, their academic performance dramatically improves.

Dr. Torrez-Velasquez is a contributing author to an educational article about Multicultural education. The article, Martinez v. State of New Mexico and Multicultural Education: Divide and Conquer? We Don't Think So can be found at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338025894_Martinez_v_State_of_New_Mexico_and_Multicultural_Education_Divide_and_Conquer_We_Don't_Think_So



2021 Legislative Session

Prepare to Be an Active Citizen

Communicate with Your Legislators

AAUW, AAUW NM and AAUW Albuquerque provide online resources to assist members to be informed citizens. Sylvia Fink has provided state and national websites that will help each of us to be an informed citizen. GO TO albuquerque-nm.aauw.net. You just need to the website and click on item you are interested in. Sylvia has made it very easy for members to keep up to date on the progress of legislation in the New Mexico Legislature and the U.S. Congress and also how to contact legislators to express your opinion. Below is a copy of the website information

The Front Lines of Public Policy

Get involved. Pass Paid Family and Medical Leave. Push for Independent Redistricting, Stop Predatory Lending. Support women and girls in STEM. Close the gender pay gap. Together, we can change federal, state and local policies to advance gender equality!
New Mexico:

- [Download NM Public Policy Priorities 2019-2021](#)
- [Join our AAUW New Mexico Lobby Corps](#)
- [Find your NM Legislator](#)
- [Calendar – What's Happening](#)
- [Track New Mexico Legislation at the Bill Tracker](#)



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

Nationally:

- **Download AAUW Public Policy Priorities 2019 2021**
- **Sign up for the Two minute activist**
- **Subscribe to AAUW Equity Express newsletter**
- **Read Where We Stand on Title IX, Education, Economic Security, and Civil Rights.**
- **Find your Federal Representative**
- **Find your Federal Senators**

This year the legislative sessions and committee meetings will be accessible online. The League of Women Voters website has a helpful guide to the New Mexico Legislative website. Committee meetings and legislative sessions will be available online this year. There is a What's Happening tab that will let you access any meeting online. The above information is available at **<https://albuquerque-nm.aauw.net>**

2021 New Mexico Virtual Women's March

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico is hosting a virtual Women's March on January 23 from 11a.m. -12 noon. Below is information about the march from the LWVNM website

In 2017, thousands of women converged on our nation's capital to draw attention to women's issues and what they perceived as a threat to women's rights. In the years since then, the Women's March has grown as a call to action to support the rights of marginalized groups: people of color, immigrants, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities. The March in Washington, D.C. has expanded to state, regional, and local marches, including millions of women and supporters.

Even though we can't meet in person, we can still gather virtually to celebrate the power of women voting. We can demonstrate our solidarity and hold our elected officials accountable for supporting all voters' rights and speaking for their constituents. Please join us on Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 11 am to 12 pm over Zoom. The event will include speakers excited about the power of women voting and eager to further women's issues and musical performances by New Mexican women. Best of all, we will feature a virtual. march of women from all across the country. The information on how to participate in the March is printed below



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

New Mexico Virtual Women's March

State public health regulations prohibiting car parades of greater than 10 vehicles persist. We have speakers and performers from all parts of the state. We are still able to include some speakers if you would like to be represented. Committed speakers include Deb Haaland, who will be introducing the March, along with Linda Serrato, Joanne Coppler Vigil, and Nichole Rogers. Performers include Kansas Begaye and the women lowriders of Española. Registration link is available at:

Jan 23, 2021 11:00 AM in [Mountain Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

<https://www.katiechristianson.com/home/new-mexico-virtual-womens-march-january-23-2021> Registration and profiles of some of the speakers



Fundraiser for New Mexico Tech Trek

Our beautiful **Emancipation Cards** we sold part of last year were one more causality of close-down in the pandemic. However, they are all occasion cards, historically accurate, and might be just the thing for particular friends.

This was our only **fundraiser for Tech Trek** last year and we have about 50 cards left. Consider buying **1 for \$5, 2 for \$9**, or more! If you wish to view a particular card, please call me at **505-385-2624** and I will text you some of the historic women that are pictured on the cards. If chose **Harriet Tubman**, who



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

many of you showed particular interest, **I will include a 2-page history blurb** from my private newsletter, Letterjoy, that includes short history blurbs that I just love.

I will pay the postage for up to 4 cards, or if you want to, meet me for a pass-through in a nearby parking lot. The check must be made out to New Mexico Tech Trek.

Mail the check to **Janet Matwiyoff, 9504 Pebble Beach Dr NE, 8711**. Please do NOT mail directly to Tech Trek, as we need to keep an accurate record of costs/profits. C me if you wish to discuss an order or wish more information

Thanks for your support.
Janet Matwiyoff

Interest Groups

Current Literature: 2nd Tuesday, **February 9** at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sheila Richmond, 152 Juniper Hill Rd NE, 280-8904. Meeting will be cancelled if not allowed by the current Covid-19 restrictions and/or the weather conditions. Chair: **Liz Gordon, 3447842**.

Evening Literature. 3rd Mondays, 6:00 p.m. If the Governor's Public Health Orders allow for meetings in homes, we will meet on February 15. We will discuss *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. Call Sheila for meeting location. Chair: **Sheila Richmond, 280-8904**.

Mystery. We'll be meeting again via Zoom on Thursday, **February 5** 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, at noon February 18**.

Calendar

Feb. 6. AAUW ABQ Branch meeting

Feb. 8. AAUW ABQ Board Meeting

Feb. TBD Lobby Corps Meetings in Albuquerque/Bernalillo

Feb. 20 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



Albuquerque (NM) Branch

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

Contact Information

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