



Mission: to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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No. 1

**Annual Meet and Greet
September 11, 2021
10-Noon**



We will be meeting in the beautiful garden that Janet Matwiyoff has created around her home. The branch board will be serving light refreshments. This will be a time to renew friendships and to invite potential new members of the branch. Consider wearing a garden hat.

Janet's home is in the gated community of West Tanoan. The only entrance to the community is located between Eubank and Ventura. At the entrance, identify that you are an AAUW member. Bear right onto Pebble Beach Dr. NE. When you arrive at the 9500 block, Janet's home will be on your left. Please, park on the street and avoid blocking driveways. If it is possible, please, try to carpool. Enter the gate to the left of the garage.

There is an exit onto Ventura. Continue down Pebble Drive to Tanoan Drive. Turn right to exit. Please call 504-2466 if you need assistance with directions.

The callers will be contacting members around September 1. They will be asking if you are going to attend and whether you are bringing a guest so we can plan for refreshments.



President's Message

We will begin a new program year with a Meet and Greet at Janet Matwiyoff's beautiful garden. I spent some time last week talking with most of the interest group leaders. Several mentioned that some of their members no longer drive. Realize that some members already carpool to our meetings. And a few bring friends they know to the meetings. I have wondered how we as a branch could have a system to address this problem.

I have a system that I will share with the board at the September meeting. Another organization I belonged to developed the following process.

1. Members who need transportation notify the transportation coordinator.
2. Members who are willing to provide transportation to a member or members that live in their area communicate with the transportation coordinator.
3. The transportation coordinator.
4. Using a map of the Albuquerque area, the coordinator attempts to match the member needing transportation and the member that needs transportation.

If you are in need for transportation and would be interested in this service, please e-mail at pam1246@me.com or call me at 504-2466. Knowing how many members that have this need would be helpful. If you are willing to provide transportation for a member, please call or e-mail me.

During the past year I have been so grateful for the members of the board. They have been delightful to work with. Unfortunately, we have had three resignations. Therefore, I am searching for new members for the board.

Public Policy Chair

Pamelya Herndon was selected to serve in the New Mexico Legislature after Melanie Stanbury was elected to the U.S House of Representatives. Pamelya has offered to mentor the member

who agrees to assume this very important position. AAUW New Mexico has a very active Public Policy group that provides support to local public policy chairs. Most of the work related to this position is of course, during the legislative session. If you are interested in being up to date about what is going on in the legislature, this is the position for you. Please contact me at 504-2466 if you believe you would be interested.

AAUW Funds Chair

The AAUW Funds Chair position is open. After many years on the board, Janet Matwiyoff has resigned due to health reasons. AAUW Funds chair works with the board in developing ways to raise funds to support the efforts of the national organization to promote equity for women and girls. AAUW has information online to assist Funds chairs in their efforts in fundraising. My hope is that a member that enjoys fundraising will agree to take on the important position.

Co-Program Vice President

The Co-Program Vice President resigned. There is need for someone to work with Cheri Burch in developing interesting and informative programs for the branch. The programs for the fall are already planned. Cheri, as many of you know, is the chair of the branch STEM committee. She has been in leadership roles for Tech Trek from its beginning.

Co-Vice President for Membership

Monique Dodd said in her resignation that she has taken on new responsibilities with two organizations she belongs to that will take a lot of her out of work time. She will continue to be a member of the branch. So, we need another person to step in and work with Danielle Martin. Vice presidents of membership handle the annual renewal of memberships, report changes in membership to the national data base, record attendees at branch meetings and welcome members and guests to branch meetings.

AAUW Issue of the Month

AAUW works toward greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including paid family and medical leave and paid sick days.

Unlike the [majority](#) of developed countries worldwide, the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental leave. Without these policies, balancing the responsibilities of work and family can be difficult for employees, negatively impacting productivity, making recovery from major illnesses or injuries difficult, and in some cases inhibiting the healthy development of children. In addition, for the millions of Americans without paid sick days, a decision to

stay home to care for a sick child or family member could jeopardize their job or family income.

AAUW has long supported workplace policies to address the health and caregiving needs of employees. While the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, which provides job-protected, unpaid leave, was an important first step, its promise remains out of reach for many. The U.S. workforce continues to change, making it necessary to update the law with policies such as paid family and medical leave and paid sick days.

PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

At some point, most workers will need time away from work to deal with a serious personal or family illness, or to care for a new child. [FMLA](#) makes it possible to take family leave and keep your job for some workers, but not all. Unfortunately, FMLA fails to cover about 40% of workers. This [includes](#) workers at companies with fewer than 50 employees, those who have been with their employer for less than a year, or those who have not met the required number of annual hours. Expanding FMLA coverage to more workers would be beneficial; however, even when covered, many workers [cannot afford](#) to take unpaid leave without endangering their economic security. As a result, many people do not take time off for serious personal or family illnesses or when they need to care for a new child.

A federal paid leave program will build stronger families and healthier workers. Paid leave contributes to improved newborn and child health by allowing both parents the time they need to help with health care decisions and responsibilities. For example, time at home with newborns and young children has been [shown](#) to, among other benefits, increase parent's ability to attend medical visits and decrease infant and post-neonatal mortality rates. It also allows ill or injured adults time to recover and gives family members time to care for sick relatives. It [enables](#) people to help their loved ones, including older family members with health problems, to recover from illness and avoid complications, thereby reducing hospital readmissions and health costs.

For businesses, paid leave [helps](#) them by retaining workers and reducing the high costs of turnover, such as advertising, interviewing and training new hires. A comprehensive review found that the cost of turnover can range from [16 to 200%](#) of an employee's annual compensation, making such unnecessary turnover very costly for employers. As

just one example, in [California](#), a state that has a successful family leave insurance program, workers in low-wage, high-turnover industries are much more likely to return to their jobs after using the state's program.

Without access to paid leave, workers, especially women, face the continuing economic disadvantage of lost wages and are forced to prematurely return to work. AAUW supports passage of the FAMILY Act, which would establish paid family and medical leave for most of the U.S. workforce. The FAMILY Act is an affordable, cost-effective, and sustainably funded solution that does not cut or reduce other essential benefits. We also support provisions to expand FMLA and ones that provide paid leave for public sector employees. Finally, AAUW urges states to follow the path of California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Washington, New York, Massachusetts, and Washington D.C., and pass paid family and medical leave laws.

PAID SICK DAYS

In addition to lacking federally guaranteed paid family and medical leave, more than [34 million](#) private-sector workers — nearly [one-third](#) of the workforce — cannot earn paid sick days. This means that when they fall ill with the flu or have a sick child who needs to stay home, workers have to make tough decisions — jeopardize their employment or go to work sick. [Low-paid workers](#) are especially hard hit. These workers often must go to work sick and contagious. For those who work in public-facing industries, such as food service, that endangers public health.

Today, only [60%](#) of working women have some access to paid sick days and nearly 40% of mothers say they are solely responsible for staying home from work with sick children, compared with only 3% of fathers. Women [disproportionately bear](#) the economic cost of taking children or elderly family members to the doctor. Yet, many women [delay](#) seeking health care for themselves because they cannot take time off work, affecting their capacities as employees and primary caregivers.

If hardworking Americans have access to a minimum number of earned sick days that can also be used to care for sick family members, working parents and caregivers will no longer have to make the difficult choice between caring for loved ones, or themselves, and losing much-needed income. For a family without paid sick days, [three days](#) of pay lost to illness can be the equivalent of their monthly health care or food budget.

Paid sick days are also good for workforce stability and business productivity. As mentioned above, employee turnover is costly to employers. Further, when workers do come into work sick, they are significantly less productive. The loss in productivity due to working while sick costs our economy [\\$218 billion](#) a year. Paid sick days help reduce these unnecessary costs for employers.

AAUW supports federal legislation such as the Healthy Families Act, which would ensure workers in businesses with 15 or more employees can earn up to seven job-protected paid sick days each year to be used to recover from their own illness, access preventive care, or provide care for a sick family member. We also encourage states and cities to follow the example of the ten states, nineteen cities and three counties that have [paid sick time laws](#) on the books.

Reprint from the AAUW website.

Paid Family Leave Coalition

Paid Family and Medical Leave

This Bill did not pass in the last legislature; however, it will be back in either the short session in 2022 or the long session in 2023. Coalition members have met with several business groups to build support. The revised version that will be introduced will have changes that meet some of the criticisms of the prior version.

Among which:

- Move implementation out 6 months to Jan 2024.
- No final decision on small business definition. Coalition preference is under 5 or 10 employees
 - Under 5 employees not sure % businesses uncovered
 - Under 10 employees about 17% businesses uncovered
 - Under 20 employees about 31% businesses uncovered
- Individuals could still pay share though employer would not contribute.

The Coalition meets monthly via Zoom.

Sylvia Fink

Interest Groups

New members are welcomed to all interest groups. Contact the chair for information.

Current Literature: 2nd Tuesdays: Group will meet **September 14th**, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. review **Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting** by Lisa Genova). Chair: **Liz Gordon, 344-7842.**

4th Tuesday. On **September 28** we will meet at Flying Star, 10700 Corrales Rd NW. See note below. Chair: Janet Matwiyoff, 821-0418

Hi folks,

Those who drove to Corrales last month really enjoyed the Flying Star atmosphere and want to do it again. The very casual feel in Corrales (really the corner of Corrales Rd. and Alameda) is a great change of pace. And the service is super friendly and capable, whether a FRESH lemonade or breakfast of lunch.

I found the trip over was about 20+ minutes from about Wyoming and Academy, taking Alameda, which is the relaxing way not Paseo. The outside is very virus un-friendly! Air circulation perfect. And, of course, the noise level very low.

We will consider going back to Hello Deli in October, depending on the weather and COVID. November and December are never well attended, so we'll have to discuss if we meet in these months.

Thanks for reading through!

Janet Matwiyoff

Investigating Games Interest Group. Meets on the 4th Tuesday. The group will meet **September 30**, 6 - 9 PM at O'Neill's on Central. Contact Cheri Burch, ctburch@aol.com for questions or reservation. Chair: **Cheri Burch**

Evening Literature. Meets on the 3rd Mondays at 7:30 PM. Please read Andy Weir's *Project Hail Mary*. Chair: Sheila Richmond, 280-8904 or sdrich111@comcast.net

Morning Cuisine. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday. We will meet on September 21 at 11:30 at an ethnic restaurant. Members of the group will be called with information. Chair: **Marilyn Dunn**, 299-5487

Mystery. First Thursday at 1:30 PM. **September 2.** We meet in the small living room at La Vida Llena's Nueva Vista Building, Juan Tabo at Lagrima de Oro. Read *Blood Grove* by Walter Mosley. Hostess: Mary Strohacker. Chair: **Diane Vadnais**, 323-1924

STEM Task Force. Thursday, **September 16**, 11:30 pm-1:30 pm—Luscombe's Winery, 901 Rio Grande Blvd NW #B-100, Albuquerque, NM 87104. Contact Cheri Burch, ctburch@aol.com, for questions or reservation.

Travel. Third Mondays at 1:30 PM. The Travel group will meet On September 20 at the home of Ted and Eleanor Cooley at 1:30 PM at 608 Val Verde Dr. SE. The topic will be a cruise through the Panama Canal. If you wish to attend and are not regular member of the Travel Group recently, please advise Ted that you wish to attend so that seating can be ensured. Chair: **Ted Cooley**, 255-3720

Calendar

- Sept. 11 Meet and Greet at Janet Matwiyoff's Home. See article on the first page.
- Sept. 13. AAUW ABQ Board meeting 5:30 via Zoom