

## **Summary of Proposed Changes to the Governance of the Albuquerque Branch of AAUW (as of February 24, 2022)**

The past two years have seen a number of changes to our lives. The passage of time, the prevalence of Covid-19, and the emergence of Zoom have combined to affect the ABQ Branch of AAUW in several ways. Our members continue to grow older, our meetings have not been as well attended as in the past, our Board is smaller, and it is harder than ever to recruit new Branch and Board members. The “social aspect” of our Branch has definitely been hurt by the pandemic.

So, as we enter 2022 (and fiscal year 2023) it seems prudent to take a look at our structure. A group comprised of Pat Maben, Cheri Burch, Janet Matwiyoff, Mary Moskal, and Sylvia Fink had looked at a new governance model in 2020, but the effort stalled in January of 2021. The group had worked with the Los Alamos Branch to better understand the “Coordinating Council” method of governing, which the LA Branch has used for a number of years. As the effort stalled, the ABQ group was definitely leaning toward adopting the LA Branch model.

The primary advantage of such a model is that most of the jobs (work) can be rotated among the members, so that nobody has to do one position for an entire year (except facilitator, record-keeper, and treasurer). A person is elected to the Council for two years (with half being elected each year so that there is never an entirely new Council). The Council then decides each year among its members how each job will be done.

As proposed for the Albuquerque Branch, work to be done by Council members would include presiding at meetings, developing branch programs, supporting membership, and coordinating communications.

Additional jobs could be taken on by Council members or other Branch members appointed to carry out the work. This work includes public policy, fundraising, webmistress, newsletter editor, social media chair, interest group coordinator, and any other work deemed necessary.

IN ORDER TO ADOPT THIS MODEL, THE BYLAWS WOULD NEED TO BE AMENDED, AND WOULD NEED TO SPELL OUT EXACTLY WHICH JOBS WOULD BE DONE BY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND WHICH COULD BE APPOINTED TO BE DONE. **There will be a Zoom meeting on Saturday, February 26 at 2:00 pm to discuss this.** If you would like to participate in the effort to amend the bylaws, please notify Shelley Rossbach ([shelley0424@gmail.com](mailto:shelley0424@gmail.com) or 505-980-8955) and she will send you the draft and add you to the Zoom meeting on Saturday. If you have comments, but cannot attend on Saturday, let her (or another current Board member) know what your concerns are ASAP, but at least by March 7 so the Board can discuss them at the Board meeting on March 14.

The draft amended bylaws need to be mailed to all members by March 19, which is two weeks prior to the annual meeting on April 2. The membership can vote on whether to adopt the new model at the annual meeting (or any other regularly scheduled membership meeting).