



AAUW advance equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education and research. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 7 – 9, 2007: National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Washington, D. C.

June 29 – July 2, 2007: AAUW National Convention, Phoenix, AZ

July 10 – 15, 2007: 3rd International Women's Peace Conference, Dallas, TX

July 21 – 22, 2007: AAUW TX Leadership Conference

April 25 – 27, 2008: AAUW TX Convention, Dallas, TX

"As part of the AAUW Leader to Leader program, I was the guest of the AAUW TX board on Friday evening, January 26 and Saturday, January 27 in Austin. I enjoyed my visit tremendously and thank President Linda Conger, the board and everyone responsible for such an enjoyable time. Even the weather was outstanding!"

"My purpose in visiting AAUW TX was to explain and discuss the next steps of AAUW's watershed Strategic Process as our organization moves toward the Phoenix convention. I believe the discussion around the Strategic Process was extremely valuable, and that we all learned a great deal in the process. AAUW TX's leadership is again evidenced by the board vote to become Champions of Change for the Strategic Process, based on information received to date.

"The meeting also provided an opportunity for members to provide input on a variety of topics. I am working to ensure response and/or action on each item.

"On behalf of the Association Board of Directors, please accept my thanks for the opportunity to spend time with you all. I look forward to seeing even more of you at the Association Convention in Phoenix, June 29 - July 7--come celebrate the 125th anniversary and a new vision for AAUW!"

*~Ruth Sweetser
President, AAUW*

From the President, Linda Conger:

AAUW is aware that all branches are challenged by the expenses in their operating budgets. This year AAUW has designed the convention incentive program to help lighten the burden:

Large Branches (101+ members): Branches that send 10 or more members* will receive (1) a \$150 gift certificate from FedEx Kinkos or Staples **OR** (2) a one-hour AAUW webinar of your choice.

Medium Branches (46 – 100 members): Branches that send 5 or more members* will receive (1) a \$100 gift certificate from FedEx Kinkos or Staples **OR** (2) a \$100 gift certificate from Amazon.com **OR** (3) Five one-hour consultant calls from Public Policy/Advocacy, Meetings/Events, Membership Recruitment, Programming, **AND** Development over the next year (approximate value of \$1250).

Small Branches (45 members or less): Branches that send 3 or more members* will receive (1) a \$50 gift certificate from FedEx Kinkos or Staples **OR** (2) a 1 ½ hour consultation from an AAUW department of your choice, to be used between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008 (value of \$250) **OR** (3) Five one-hour consultant calls from Public Policy/Advocacy, Meetings/Events, Membership Recruitment, Programming, **AND** Development over the next year (approximate value of \$1250).

* All 2007 AAUW Convention attendance incentives are based upon participants registered and paid at the full convention rate (\$375). All membership numbers will be based upon February 1, 2007 membership counts.)

From the Program Vice President, Lane Powell

New branch officers will not want to miss the 2007 AAUW-Texas Leadership Conference, July 21-22: "Leaders Envisioning the Future."

All branches will receive one complimentary registration for the incoming president or her representative. Additional registrations, which include one night's lodging (shared room), two meals, reception, and a CD/notebook of essential reference information, should run around \$100 per person. Information on the site is pending.

Our goal is to have at least two leaders – preferably four – from each branch attending the conference. As you are planning your budgets for the coming year, we urge you to include assistance for your officers to attend this great weekend. Trained leadership is crucial to a successful, enduring organization.

In addition to sessions on all programming aspects of branch work, plenary speakers will include futurist Terry Grim, Dallas TV anchor Jeff Crilley, and AAUW Public Policy Coordinator Lisa Maatz. There will also be time to visit with your District Representative, shop the AAUW store, and review the resources available at the state and national level to help you in your branch programming.

From the Membership Vice President, Priscilla Mowinkel

Membership Matters In Texas! Branch Presidents, your membership vice-president receives monthly, from Association, a newsletter, "*Membership Matters*." You might ask her to share it with you. The first challenge for AAUW—KEYS TO THE FUTURE: A member-Get-A-Member Campaign ended on November 28, 2006. Branches were asked to recruit new members between June 1 and November 28, 2006. California (most new members) and Tennessee (biggest percentage increase) were the two states receiving the awards for the first challenge. More details on how Texas did will be included in the next *UWT!* Phase Two began in December 2006 and continues until March 15, 2007.

Last Saturday, Janet Peavler, their District Representative, and I visited the Greenville branch for their birthday luncheon in Farmersville, TX. Greenville is a small branch of 16 members and they did not have a large turnout of their members; but those that attended brought guests. Good job Greenville! That is what Member-Get-A-Member is all about. Just think what would happen if each member brought a guest and that guest joined? Your branches would double in size! Remember there are three phases to our membership campaign this year.

Recruiting new members is necessary but equally important is the question, are we keeping them? What is your retention rate? More important what do you as a branch plan to do to keep them? Association suggests

- During a board meeting or even a regular meeting you discuss what you can do to make new, and even not-so-new, members feel that they are a welcome and essential part of your branch.
- Actively involve all members in the business of the branch by discovering what unique skills and abilities members bring to your group and then utilize those strengths.
- Remember with a good orientation members do not need to have belonged for years to bring their new ideas and abilities to our organization.
- Emphasize that Equity continues to be an issue and there is a need for AAUW

Personally, I ask that you as members remember that this organization is doing extremely wonderful work. That it is an organization made up of all college graduates and therefore, you should be loading your branches with many diverse leaders. Women are fighting for equity in all professions and all cultures. Approach these women of all ages and show them that we are needed because we recognize that education is the way to equity for women.

From the Educational Foundation Vice President, Mary DuBoise

2006 Donations to EF: The end-of-the-year report for EF should be available about Feb. 14. The branches have to report any variations in contribution within a month to Association. I will forward the spreadsheet to the EF-VP for the branches as quickly as I receive it. I will be happy to assist with any problems.

Named Gift Honorees: A wonderful way to honor members in your branch is to name a gift to the Educational Foundation for her or him. You may do a named gift for every gift of \$500 to EF for 2006. These members will be recognized at the convention in Dallas in 2008 and listed in an edition of *UWT!*. Please be sure the names of the honorees for 2006 are sent to me.

Member Donations to EF: When individual members want to make a donation to EF or LAF, the check should be made payable to AAUW-EF or AAUW-LAF. Check made payable to AAUW-EF or AAUW-LAF should be sent directly to Association. These checks should not be cashed by the local treasurer.

If your branch is not working toward the completion of a specific fellowship, please consider designating your contributions to the Barbara Jordan fund.

The Barbara Charline Jordan American Fellowship was established by the 1998—1999 AAUW TX Board to memorialize and recognize her contributions to Texas and United States government. The Fellowship will begin awarding fellowships when it reaches its endowment level of \$100,000 and we lack about \$30,000 to reach that level.

All you have to do is write “Barbara Jordan Fund” in the memo line of your check.

Please let me know if you have any questions about EF. I can be reached at 817-577-3713 or at mary.duboise@sbcglobal.net

IMPORTANT NOTE: Miriam Tormollan has resigned as the AAUW TX Administrator and the AAUW TX Board voted to not replace her. Therefore you can take the AAUW TX Administrator off the mailing list for your branch newsletter. Send dues information to AAUW TX Finance Officer, Margaret K. Bentley, 1420 Daventry Dr., DeSoto, TX 75115.

From the Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President, Marietta Hostak

Congratulations to our top branches and to the members who contributed to LAF. You are applauded for your commitment to help fight sex discrimination in higher education.

The Top Branch Donations: San Antonio, \$2434; Austin, \$1676; Lubbock, \$1407; West Harris County, \$1115; Dallas, \$861; Fort Bend County, \$714; North Harris County, \$685; North East Tarrant County, \$617; Tarrant County \$656.35; Amarillo, \$539.32

The Top Branches Per Capita: Lubbock, \$27.06; Fort Bend County, \$24.62; Houston, \$20.41; San Antonio, \$17.14; Amarillo, \$15.86; Dallas, \$12.48; Farmers Branch-Carrollton, \$11.25; Tarrant County, \$10.76; Georgetown, \$10.71; Austin, \$9.98.

These numbers are derived from the records sent by the branches to the state LAF Vice-president. They may change some when the official records from Association are received.

A LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND POSITION IN EVERY BRANCH

The goal for 2006-2008 is to see every branch with a LAF officer. Some branches elect a LAF vice-president while some branches have a LAF liaison officer appointed. Whichever, it is important to have one person in the branch whose job it is to keep a branch focus on the workings of LAF and to encourage the members to support LAF. The branch LAF officer now receives monthly e-mails from the Association with current LAF news thus enabling the branch officer to stay informed and be of service to her branch.

LAF IS 25! As AAUW celebrates its 125th birthday, LAF celebrates its 25th birthday. A special logo is available on the AAUW website and a special anniversary pin is now available. This year, when an individual contributes \$250 to LAF they will receive the anniversary pin along with the usual LAF pin awarded for \$100 contributions; a two for one deal! Contributions to LAF may be made at anytime during the year by branches and by individual members. The contribution report form is available at www.aauw.org.

Remember to send the checks and form directly to Washington with a copy of the report to me at 12510 Shepherds Ridge Drive, Houston 77077. If you have any questions, please contact me at mhostak@sbcglobal.net.

From the Secretary, Liz Stepp:

The 2006-2008 Texas Board of Directors held its third meeting in Austin on January 26-28, 2007. President Linda Conger welcomed Ruth Sweetser, AAUW President, as our special guest for the weekend. Ruth presented the newly developed Joint Board Strategic Plan, and shared the motivation, intent and vision of the Plan. “AAUW members have spoken, and AAUW Boards have listened. This Plan represents a call to action”, says Sweetser. A motion was made and approved that AAUW TX be “champions of change,” and move the findings and proposed Bylaw changes forward throughout the organization. Regional Director Shirley Breeze encouraged all Board members to return to the Branches and promote attendance to the 2007 AAUW National Convention to be held in Phoenix June 29-July 2nd. “Get the word out!” says Breeze. Sweetser concurred, “Phoenix will be a catalyst for the future of AAUW. Please attend and be part of the process.”

In addition, many AAUW groups and committees were represented and reported upon, including Leadership Committee’s “Leaders Envisioning our Future” Leadership Conference, to be held July 20-22nd, 2007, under the direction of Programs VP Lane Powell, who presented a preliminary Agenda. Finance Officer Margaret Bentley presented an AAUW Texas Investment Policy, as well as the AAUW TX Budget for 7/1/2007 to 6/30/2008. Both were

approved. Membership VP Priscilla Mowinkel reported Branch State membership totals of 2,255. Mowinkel also thanked the Membership Committee for their contributions to the newly developed AAUW TX Membership Brochure. The Board acknowledged the Committee findings that membership opportunities abound in the online, MAL, and Affiliate membership categories. Marta Mountjoy, 2008 TX Convention Co-Chair, reported on the 2008 AAUW TX Convention to be held in Dallas on April 25-27th, 2008. Mountjoy presented the "Top Ten Reasons for Attending the 2008 TX Convention", as well as the preliminary planning processes.

Reports and direction were also given by President Conger, Education Foundation, International Affairs, Public Policy, Parliamentarian/Bylaws, Communications, and many others.

Note from AAUW TX President: Your AAUW TX Board is extremely busy working to implement the very aggressive Strategic Plan we developed at our July, 2006 Board meeting. If there is something you think we should be doing, please let us know.

From the Public Policy Officer, Georgia Kidwell:

The new legislative session has started. After attending Women's Legislative Days, where we had very informative workshops, we are ready to respond to proposed legislation. During this session there is a much larger surplus for legislators to work with. Officials agreed on a limit based on 13.1 % increase over the last two-year budget. That means, unless lawmakers find a way to exceed the constitutional cap, they'll have to cut \$4 billion from last year's spending levels. Property tax relief will cause total spending to rise, surpassing the limit by about \$4 billion. The spending cap issues can be a real problem for those interested in education and other issues.

Education issues: Vouchers for autistic students is possibly a way to open the whole voucher issue. Advocates for these children do not support the proposal. They believe in inclusion for autistic students. Other issues include eliminating the top 10% rule for admission to state universities, replacing TAKS in high school with end-of-course exams, funding early childhood education, enforcing stricter standards for alternative and charter schools, funding the stricter standards for math and science for high school students and developing uniform standards for disciplining students.

Other issues we will be watching: Reproductive rights and health care for women and girls, bills with restrictions on prescribing contraceptives for underage girls, environmental issues- water and air quality, coal fired plants, energy conservation, improved state park funding and property tax appraisals, transportation issues- toll roads, increase in sales tax allowed to fund mass transit.

AAUW Texas again supports Recorded Votes for the Legislature. We believe a constitutional amendment is needed requiring the legislature to record votes by legislators' names and make them readily accessible to the public.

I will be emailing information to branch public policy chairs and presidents of branches who do not have a public policy chair. If your branch does not have a public policy chair, consider appointing one. It is important for our legislators to hear from us. A local contact is much more valuable than one from someone they do not know and who does not live in their district.

We belong to the Texas Coalition for Public Schools and the Texas Freedom Network, who help keep us informed. For daily news clips from the Texas Freedom Network- tfn@tfn.org

Please keep in touch and let me hear from you. 817-282-0712 or grgkdw@yahoo.com

From the International Affairs Officer, Karen McKibben Morris:

I'd like to encourage every branch to have an International Affairs Liaison. AAUW has long been committed to promoting equity for women and girls around the world by bringing international affairs into the mainstream of AAUW activities. Designating a member of your branch to serve in the International Affairs position will help your branch membership be more informed, engaged, and proactive in addressing global issues. Once you have identified someone who would like to serve in this position, please let me know so I may add them to my branch distribution list. I will provide numerous ideas for them to share with your branch membership and plans for community activities if they would like. I'm including here the job description for an International Affairs Officer and hope you will identify someone in your branch to serve.

International Affairs Liaison Job Description –Branch

Overview of the position:

- Provide an international or global perspective regarding women/girls in program and action
- Encourage branch to include an international/global perspective in their programming

- Promote the program aspects of the UN that are within the focus of AAUW
- Promote AAUW (Association and EF) efforts in the international arena, e.g., Educational Foundation International Fellowships
- Publicize IFUW activities and options for participation

Promote AAUW's Public Policy statement 2005-2007:

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these issues. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations. We affirm our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Overall responsibilities:

- Serve to assure a global perspective in branch policies and programs, mainstreaming international issues into the fabric of the AAUW mission.
- Contact the general membership at least 4 times per year concerning international perspectives.
- Serve on Program Development and Public Policy Teams.
- Keep apprised of the United Nations issues, paying particular attention to equity in education, human rights, economic security, and health care for women and girls worldwide. (Utilize the United Nations Association as a resource.)
- Promote and support programs/projects with an international focus.
- Serve as a resource regarding women's issues and a global perspective.
- Conduct seminars/workshops designed to bring international affairs into the mainstream of AAUW activity.
- Gain visibility for the United Nations, International Federation of University Women, Bina Roy Partners in Development Fund and Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund.
- Communicate regularly with the State International Affairs Committee, providing feedback and reporting on branch international involvement.