



Summer 2006  
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## Wrap-Up Edition

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# University Woman Texas!

## Live the AAUW Mission in Texas!

AAUW Texas' goal for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial State Convention was to inspire you to live the AAUW mission. Were we successful?

Lynn Hickey, gave a terrific kick off Friday night. Her keynote address, "Living a Life of Significance", stressed the most important thing we have in life is our relationships, and the way that we treat other people.

On Saturday, we heard from several featured speakers, including Legal Advocacy Fund plaintiff Beverly Nash, Mary Ellen Smyth, former president of the Educational Foundation, Patricia Castillo, executive director of PEACE, Meghan Kissell, field director, AAUW Public Policy Department, and AAUW executive director, Michelle Wetherald. These speakers all encouraged us to live the mission, but also reminded us that sometimes the road is rocky and standing up for what we believe can require sacrifice.

On Sunday, we celebrated the 125th anniversary of AAUW at our brunch with a cake and balloons. Our keynote speaker, Alma Lopez, Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals, Texas, titled her talk, "Breaking the Glass Ceiling". She had us all laughing about many of the trials she overcame throughout her life, and what a positive influence her grandmother had been while she was growing up. Her grandmother challenged her and she challenged us to be "someone no one else has seen before".

The workshops included something for everyone – from thought-provoking to detailed how-to; opportu-

nities to hear about the latest research, to learn more about the new AAUW Theme: *Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security*, as well as to learn from other branches how to increase our membership and our visibility.

### Recognizing Branches and Members

AAUW Texas also recognized all the branches that are living the mission. At the Sunday celebration, branches received STAR Awards for all their hard work in membership, visibility, public policy, mission-based programming, financial support to help women achieve their goals, and leadership development. Congratulations to you all!

AAUW Texas also recognized an Outstanding Member – Miriam Tormollan, Austin Branch, who had also been the AAUW Texas administrator for many years and Outstanding New Member – Joy Vann, Lubbock Branch. Look for more information on these outstanding women in the Fall issue of *UWT!*

### Convention Business

Along with the inspiring speakers, informative workshops, and celebrating our successes, the convention delegates attended to the business side of AAUW Texas.

The delegates elected the new officers after meeting the candidates at a roof-top reception on Friday evening and hearing speeches from the candidates running in the two contested elections for program vice-president and secretary. The new board members are listed on page 5. Congratulations to the new officers!

Delegates also adopted the Public Policy Program and the bylaws amendments. The bylaws amendments primarily implement the recommendations from the Restructur-

ing Taskforce. During the past bien-  
nium, this taskforce developed rec-  
ommendations to the board of direc-  
tors for the restructuring of AAUW  
Texas. All the amendments passed  
and the changes took effect immedi-  
ately.

The biggest changes are (1) the way  
the state is divided into districts and  
(2) the way the districts are repre-  
sented on the state board.

Texas is now divided into four dis-  
tricts – North, Central, South, and  
West. Each district has at least 4  
branches within its boundaries.

Each district is represented by at  
least one district representative.  
Each district has one representative  
for each 8 branches in the district.  
The Central and West districts each  
have one representative. The South  
District has two representatives and  
the North District has three repre-  
sentatives.

Each district met and elected their  
district representatives from their  
member branches. The new district  
representatives and their contact  
information is found on page 5.  
Congratulations to the newly elected  
representatives!

**What did you take home?**

If you were a representative from one  
of the 33 branches in attendance, we  
hope you found at least one thing to  
take home to help your branch in the  
upcoming year. Please share it!

Did you take home energy and/or  
inspiration? Did you take home  
ideas on how to improve your  
branch? Did you take home a better  
understanding of the new AAUW  
Theme “Education as the Gateway to  
Women’s Economic Security”? Did  
you take home new contacts from  
other branches to provide help and  
support? Did you take home infor-  
mation about the AAUW research?

The success of any convention de-  
pends on the strength of its board,  
and the support local arrangements  
committee. AAUW Texas truly did  
have a "Living the Mission" 2006  
Convention!

## *Sylvia Newman Giving Circle*

*By Veronica Johnson*

Congratulations! Our Sylvia New-  
man LAF Giving Circle now exceeds  
\$30,000, surpassing our goal was  
\$25,000 by July 1, 2006.

We created the giving circle to honor  
Sylvia Newman for her many contri-  
butions to AAUW. Her vision and  
commitment helped AAUW grow  
and strength the Legal Advocacy  
Fund's impact. The money will fund  
Progress in Equity Awards, recog-  
nizing outstanding women's pro-  
grams on campus.

Beverly Nash, an LAF plaintiff,  
presented at convention her very  
chilling case that unfortunately con-  
firms, sexual harassment still exists  
in higher education today. She re-  
ceived a standing ovation at conven-  
tion for demonstrating her strength  
and courage.

To read about her case, go to  
<http://www.aauw.org/laf/cases/nash.cfm>  
. Thank you for your continued  
support of our Legal Advocacy Fund.

## *AAUW Texas Cele- brates Educational Foundation*

*By Mary DuBoise*

AAUW Texas celebrated the  
accomplishments of branches for the  
Educational Foundation for the last  
two years.

At the Educational Foundation  
Luncheon at the AAUW Texas  
Convention, we celebrated the  
completion of two research and  
project grants and the completion of  
two fellowships.

The two research and project grants  
completed were Mary Swisher  
Smith/Arlington Branch and Nancy  
J. Anderson/Southwest Dallas  
County Branch.

Nancy J. Anderson received a  
certificate from the Educational  
Foundation recognizing the  
completion of the research and  
project grant in her name. The  
Arlington Branch received the  
certificate recognizing the Mary  
Ellen Swisher Smith/Arlington  
Branch during Leadership  
Conference in July 2005.

The two fellowships completed were  
the Lynnette Solomon American  
Fellowship and Linda Tisdale  
American Fellowship.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon  
was Mary Ellen Smyth who is the  
immediate past president of the  
AAUW Education Foundation.  
Mary Ellen presented Lynnette  
Solomon with a certificate from the  
Educational Foundation recognizing  
the completion of the fellowship in  
Lynnette's name.

We also recognized branches for  
their contribution to the Educational  
Foundation. Named Gift Honorees  
from the branches were listed in the  
program for both 2004 and 2005.

### **Georgia Kidwell Research and Project Grant**

Congratulations to the Northeast  
Tarrant County Branch on the  
completion of the research and  
project grant to honor the outstanding  
contribution of their member,  
Georgia Kidwell.

This research and project grant was  
completed by December 31, 2005.  
However, due to an oversight at the  
Foundation, the research and project  
grant was not recognized as complete  
until June 9, 2006.

Georgia Kidwell is an active member  
of AAUW both locally and at the  
state level. Georgia served as District  
Director for North Texas Metroplex  
West and Public Policy for Texas  
during the 2004-2006 biennium.  
Georgia will continue to serve as a  
district representative for the North  
Texas District for the 2006-2008  
biennium.

## Thank you for a Successful Biennium

By Patricia Ross

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President for the last two years. It's been a challenging and invigorating experience, during which I had the pleasure of working with a group of talented, committed women.

All of the board members worked diligently to support branches, to promote our mission, and to plan a successful future for AAUW Texas.

Jackie Littleton and the members of the Restructuring Task Force took their charge seriously, considering other forms of governance, the needs of the branches and the future of AAUW Texas. The bylaws passed at convention as well as the updated policies and job descriptions are the results of their efforts. I thank the task force members for setting us on the road to a better future.

I want to thank Veronica Johnson for her leadership and efforts to complete the Sylvia Newman Giving Circle. This is the first Giving Circle to support the Legal Advocacy Fund. Funding for Progress in Equity awards is a fitting tribute to a very special woman.

We also looked to our past to provide clues to rebuilding our organization. Nita Hornbeck headed up the branch history project. Most branches have submitted their history, but if yours has not, it is not too late. At convention, AAUW Texas Past Presidents were presented copies of the histories. We hope to have a complete history by our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008. To achieve this goal, we are working with Texas Women's University to inventory our records.

We worked to communicate with members often and efficiently. E-mail has been a wonderful help to keeping in touch while keeping the costs down. Ann Berasley served as the editor of *UWT!* and has made the

entire board look good through her capable editing. Mynda McGuire has kept our AAUW Texas website updated while teaching all of us how to embrace new technology. Thank you for always following through.

The 2006 convention was the highlight of a very active two years. I want to thank Lynn Smith and her committee for arranging for interesting and inspiring speakers and workshops. A huge thank you to the San Antonio Branch and especially to the Local Arrangements Committee Chairs, Malinda Gaul, Loyce Collenback, Mynda McGuire and Carol Lahser. Thank you all for your time and energy!

I am very proud of the work by the state board and by branches to advance the AAUW mission of education, equity and positive societal change. Each branch tailors its work to its community. Branch community action projects included math/science conferences that inspired more than 7,000 girls and Sister-to-Sister programs that included more than 800 girls, community forums, Woman-to-Woman discussions, Women's Legislative Day, the Leadership Conference, and so much more.

Together we have given more than \$150,000 to support the work of the Educational Foundation and \$35,000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund over the biennium. In the past year alone, we have provided more than \$58,000 in local scholarships and \$22,600 for community grants. Sometimes it may not seem that we are moving fast enough, but when you add our efforts together, we make a **BIG** difference in Texas. Congratulations on all you have accomplished!

I also want to thank all the candidates who offered their talents to serve AAUW Texas. It takes courage to participate in a contested election, but I am convinced one sign of a healthy organization is the willingness of multiple qualified candidates to seek elected office. Congratulations to the new board. I

know you will help us build a better and stronger AAUW Texas.

Your new AAUW Texas Board will be most interested in hearing from you. They will want to know about your concerns and they will want to share your good ideas. Please communicate with them. Together we are so much more powerful than we are alone!

Good luck in your work. Live the Mission, make a difference, and don't forget to have fun together!

## Working to Fulfill Our Mission in 2006-2008

By Linda Conger

As we begin celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW Texas, I think we can all agree that "we've come a long way, baby." However, we are not done yet, because, "equity is still an issue." Consider:

- Even though women are graduating from college in greater numbers than men, we still comprise the majority of the below-poverty sector;
- Even though women have made a tremendous entry into the workplace, we still earn only \$0.77 for work that men in comparable jobs earn \$1;
- Even though women have earned the right to choose a career or "stay-at-home mom," those who choose the latter have no recognition by our legal, economic, or social systems of their contributions to society;
- Women still have no guaranteed equal rights under the U. S. Constitution so our sisters in many states still cannot own property or have credit in their name.

So, we in AAUW continue to work to fulfill our mission of equity for all women and girls, lifelong learning, and positive societal change.

On behalf of the AAUW Texas Board of Directors, I commit to you that we are dedicated to serve you in providing communications, tools, and support to bring the AAUW mission to life in your branches and your communities.

For starters,

- we commit to keeping the communications lines open: from us to you and from you to us;
- we want to simplify your administrative responsibilities so you can spend more time on programming and projects and less time on paperwork;
- we want to increase the visibility of AAUW and improve its name recognition so that it is no longer the state's best kept secret;
- we want to get back to our roots – the college campus – by getting every college and university in the state to join as an institutional member and by focusing on the establishment of student affiliate groups and campus branches across the state.

We commit to doing our work with passion, with enthusiasm, with humor and in collaboration with each of you! Together, we will be able to let the nation know that "AAUW is alive and well in Texas!"

## Board Meeting Highlights

By Cindy Scott

The 2004-2006 AAUW Texas Board of Directors held its sixth and final meeting of the biennium in San Antonio on May 19, 2006.

### Items of Interest

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Inviting Members-at-Large to join AAUW Texas on the state level and suggest that they visit local branches.

### Motions

The Board of Directors voted:

- To endorse the Third Annual Women's Peace Conference to be held July 10-15, 2007. The endorsement of this non-partisan organization includes allowing the use of AAUW Texas name on programs and publicity for the conference and distributing information about the conference to AAUW Texas membership.

## 2006-2007 Dues

By Loyce Coltenback

At the 2003 Association Convention held in Providence, Rhode Island, the delegates approved a dues increase of \$2 per year and a review of this new process at the 2009 Association Convention.

Because of this automatic annual increase, Association dues for 2006-2007 will be \$45; AAUW Texas dues will remain at \$10. Branches should collect at total of \$55 in addition to the branch dues.

Send state dues to the state finance officer, do *not* send them to the Association. Contact information for the finance officer is on the next page.

## Branch Officers: Tell Us Who They Are!

If you have not sent in your branch officer reports, please do it now!

These reports are the only way that Association and AAUW Texas know who your officers are. If your officer list is not complete, please send in what you know now and send in additional officers later.

Although the reports were due by June 1, the longer you wait to send these in, the more information your officers will miss.

The board contact information is on the following page. Branch officers are encouraged to contact their

counter-parts to make sure they have current information, especially e-mail addresses.

## Regional Director's Message

By Shirley Breeze, SWC

Summer is in full swing. And activities in AAUW circles are at a high pitch with state conventions, conferences, new officers. This is a good time to renew our commitment to AAUW.

The recent Texas convention was very special. AAUW's mission was prominent in the programming; all the sessions were well presented and very educational and we also had fun!

Remember, this is the season of new graduates. How about giving that new graduate a membership in AAUW through our Give-a-Grad-a-Gift program? It is an excellent way to introduce new graduates to us and to get a long-time membership commitment in the process.

The One-in-a-Million Campaign is going strong. Why not honor your outgoing branch and/or state officers with a contribution to the Campaign around the theme of the person being "One-in-a-Million."

What else can you do to help AAUW? Do you actively respond to the Alerts from the Public Policy Department? Are you receiving EdEqChange?

Do you have plans to invite several of your friends to the first fall activity of your branch? Now is not too soon to plant that idea in their minds.

Have you volunteered to help a new board member with her position or taken a board position yourself?

As always, please contact me at [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com) if I can help.

**Board of Directors Contact Information 2006—2008**

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**Appointed Officers and Communications Team Positions**

The total size of the AAUW Texas board of directors is limited to 20 members. The branch services officer, chairs of the standing committees, and other committee chairs whose service is deemed necessary by the board are appointed by the president with the consent of the executive committee.

At that time, at least the following positions will be filled.

**Branch Services Officer**

**International Affairs Officer**

**Bylaws Committee Chair**

**Public Policy Committee Chair**

At the San Antonio Convention, the bylaws were amended to create a communications team. The communications team members do not serve on the board of directors.

**Communications Team**

The team is responsible for the every member publication—*University Woman Texas!*; the branch leader publication—*the Link*; the website; and public relations and visibility.

The president appoints the team members with the consent of the executive board.

**Type, Click, Click,  
Type, Click**

Did you know that updating your member information is that easy?

**Type** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) in to your browser.

**Click** on "member center"

**Click** on "update your member record"

**Type** in the information requested.

**Click** on "send form"

Keeping your member information up-to-date will help ensure you receive your publications. You can even choose "do not solicit" and have your mail redirected to a seasonal address.

**July 2006**

**1** - Deadline for Branch Dues Report and branch dues.

**August 2006**

**1** - Foundation fellowship and grant applications for 2007-2008 academic year will be available.

**15** - Deadline for LAF Case Support Applications

**September 2006**

**1** - Look for the 2006-2007 ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club Reading List



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