



# UNIVERSITY WOMEN TEXAS



Volume 68 | Issue 2 | Winter 2017

## President's Message

### I MARCHED, NOW WHAT IS NEXT?

AAUW TX members across Texas participated in the Women's March on January 21st. As of this writing, I am aware of our members marching in **Austin, Chicago, Concho Valley, Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth and Houston**. I have heard there were also marches in Abilene, Lubbock and Corpus Christi. Thank you for participating in this social justice event!

As you may have heard on the news, there were 50,000 marchers in Austin. We had AAUW members throughout the march from **Austin, Georgetown, San Antonio, Brazos Valley, and Northeast Tarrant County**.

What was it like to participate in the march? It was energizing. I met several marchers who used to belong to AAUW or their grandmothers were members. When I asked them why they were not members, most agreed they had no excuse, so I gave them a business card. Dallas and Houston area, many lived in your area of Texas. I have no idea how many people I talked with and gave a "We support Equal Pay" sticker to, but I do know that no matter what our individual cause was, we were one big family. There were a wide range of signs that were creative and inspiring.

We cannot let this one day event be the end of it. **WHAT WILL WE DO NEXT?** You can do things individually or as a group. Here are a few suggestions:

- Set up voter registration tables (your local elections matter)
- **Call your Congress Senator/Representative and your State Legislatures daily** or as often as you can. (Current studies have shown that phone calls and actual visits get their attention, not emails or letters)
- Join us **April 4** in Austin at the Capitol for Equal Pay Day
- Become Facebook friends with your representatives
- Become an activist. Subscribe to the AAUW Action Network [www.aauw.org/actionnetwork/](http://www.aauw.org/actionnetwork/)
- Not only update your elevator speech (1 – 2 minutes), but have multiple topics ready to share. And remember, you do not have to be in an elevator to share it!

Please share your ideas for action items with your AAUW TX District Representative:  
<http://aauw-tx.aauw.net/about/leadership/>

**March 1 – 30, 2017:**

Women's History Month

**March 8, 2017:**

International Women's Day

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017:**

Join AAUW TX for Equal Pay Day in Austin at the Capitol

**June 14-17, 2017:**

AAUW Convention in Washington D. C.

Early Bird Registration:

Jan. 15 – Mar 31

**April 20-22, 2018:**

AAUW Texas 48th Biennial Convention to be in Houston. Mark your calendars for a great time to network with like-minded women!

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Continued:

It is very important that you check your news facts from multiple sources. If you use Facebook, you know that much of the “news” from friends are slanted. Only pass on the truth. Remember, if you see a video of someone speaking, then you know that person did indeed say what you heard them say. Be sure to review photos from around the state at <http://aauw-tx.aauw.net>.

I hope to see many of you in Austin, April 4, 2017. If not, I will see you at the AAUW TX 2018 Convention in Houston!

# AAUW TX PARTICIPATES IN WOMEN'S MARCH

By Malinda Gaul and Pam Wolfe

AAUW has consistently focused on issues that promote the economic, social, and physical well-being of women and families. AAUW is nonpartisan and seeks common ground with elected leaders of both parties to achieve progress on equitable access to education and healthcare, workplaces and campuses free from harassment and discrimination, and pay equity -- especially in closing the gap for black and Latina women. Our Public Policy staff have spoken out against bigotry and bias, and have urged all individuals to stand against acts of hate, intolerance and assault. We work to ensure protection of all, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. We seek an administration that will represent the makeup of our nation and will work for the welfare of all.

Therefore, AAUW members all over the world participated in the Women's March on January 21, 2017, to ensure enforcement of civil rights and advancement of women's equity issues.

In Texas we did AAUW proud, as we continue to see inspiring photos from our members and supporters in so many cities. The Texas marches were incredible in the vast numbers that overwhelmed expectations and planning, but the impact was huge in uniting advocacy in action for our long-standing core issues.

AAUW marchers had an opportunity to talk with many people of multiple backgrounds. Our AAUW TX “WE SUPPORT PAY EQUITY” stickers were handed out and worn by many marchers, not just AAUW members. The Women's March in Austin on January 21, 2017 was for SOCIAL JUSTICE. What does this mean? Women, men, and children were marching for multiple issues. Most of the marchers carried signs to express their focus for marching. Topics for signs included: women's health, health coverage, pay equity, treat all humans the same, LGBT community issues. The signage was informative, original, and inspiring. Be sure to review photos from around the state.

## HOW CAN WE PROMOTE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT?

Have you placed the phone numbers of your State Representative and your Congress Senator and Representative in your phone? No? Do it! Call every day or as often as you can.

The most recent information we have for both the State Legislator and Congress is to contact them via a phone call if you want your opinion to be heard.

Are you Facebook friends with your representative? This is an easy way to make your voice heard and is another way to have direct contact with government officials.



AAUW San Antonio members marching in Austin



# UWT

## PUBLIC POLICY

In a historic move, on January 21, people across the world marched on their communities in support of social justice, women's rights, safety, and health. This activism is another step in a long line of activist history that brought us voting rights, basic protections, and access to healthcare. The Women's March is recorded as the biggest protest in U.S. history! This massive turn out is a sign of our strength, solidarity and importance. It also gives us all a renewed sense of purpose in a time where wages are unequal, access to self-determined health care is waning, and basic protections like Title IX are sometimes too easily dismissed.

**AAUW Texas is prepared to engage locally to support and advocate for issues that not only affect us, but will lay the groundwork for our future – hopefully a bright future.**

The 85th Texas State Legislature is in session; our priorities for this session are as follows:

You and your branch can help us move the needle forward on these issues by taking these steps:

- Join AAUW's Action Network by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/14dGXb0>
- Facilitate an AAUW outreach table at local events, or at your nearest College/University partner
- Participate in our AAUW Texas Equal Pay Day in Austin on April 4
- Follow us on Twitter @AAUWTexas and participate in our Title IX Twitter Storm on February 14 from 2-3PM CT. "Like" our AAUW Texas Facebook page and "Join" our AAUW Texas Lone Star Loop!
- Register voters!

If you or your branch has questions, is working on these issues, or if you have photos of your branch in action to share, please email us at:



**AAUW TEXAS WILL NOT STOP WITH JUST PARTICIPATING THE JANUARY 21 MARCH. PARTICIPATE IN OUR AAUW TEXAS LOBBY DAY IN AUSTIN ON APRIL 4. AAUW TX IS HAVING A CONTEST. THE 7 BRANCHES WHO BRING THE MOST MEMBERS TO THE APRIL 4 PAY EQUITY DAY EVENT WILL RECEIVE \$100 FOR THEIR BRANCH – MORE DETAILS ABOUT APRIL 4 IS FORTHCOMING!**

- Economic Security and Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Public Education
- Title IX
- Healthcare

As you may know, AAUW Texas is a proud 2016-2017 AAUW Impact Grant recipient. This grant helps fuel our work forward. As recipients, we are able to expand our work for women and girls by increasing our presence at our lobby day, and create additional collateral that champions our state priorities.

[tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com](mailto:tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com) or call Melodía at 801.918.6832.

Together we are formidable, and we are committed to build a strong and bright future for the women and girls of Texas.

In Solidarity,  
Shenée and Melodía  
Co-Public Policy Chairs  
AAUW Texas



# Membership Payment Program

By Ginny Phoenix

The Membership Payment Program (MPP) is a secure, online dues-processing alternative to the regular print version **Branch Dues Report** remittance process for AAUW branches and states. This free tool is located within AAUW's **Member Services Database (MSD)**.

Billing and receiving payments is safe for the branch finance officer and your members. Generate dues renewal notices to e-mail directly to your members or print and distribute them. Accepting and processing online payments is easy and convenient. Branch finance officers can mail in a check or pay with a credit card, as well as members can pay online. There's no cost to branches for either the ACH (Automatic Clearing House) technology that automatically deposits funds into your bank account or credit card processing. No funds are ever withdrawn from your bank account.

## Get Started in 3 Simple Steps

### Step 1

Branch presidents gather the banking and dues information below and complete the opt-in application in the **MSD**.

Membership Payment Program (MPP) Opt In	
Banking Information	Branch Dues (The amount the branch retains)
Bank name, Account Holder, Account Number, Routing Number and Federal Tax ID #	Annual Member (MOB) \$, Paid Life Member (MBL) \$ Honorary Life Member (MBHL) \$ and Student Affiliate (SAF) \$

Allow 10–14 business days for your branch banking information to be tested and verified to ensure successful deposits to your account.

### Step 3

Receive approval to begin – Your branch and state finance officer will receive an e-mail confirmation when your branch can begin using the MPP system. Requirements: The member's entire dues (national, state, and branch) are processed through the MPP when the member's individual check is sent to National or the individual pays online. The branch may submit a single payment to cover both the national and state dues, and keep the branch portion, when a branch check or credit card is used.

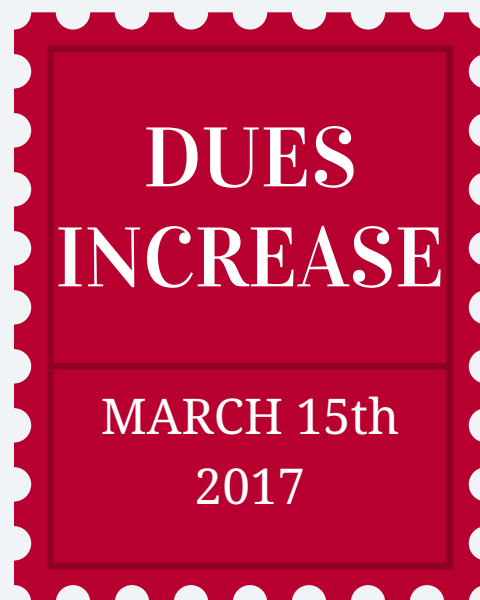
This free tool is located within AAUW's Member Services Database (MSD) at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

**TX MPP Members:** Abilene, Arlington, Concho Valley, Corpus Christi, Denton, El Paso, Farmers Branch-Carrollton, Fort Bend County, Harlingen, Houston, Hill Country Inc, Lubbock, Nacogdoches, Tyler, Northeast Tarrant County, Plano, Southwest Dallas County, Tarrant County and West Harris County.

# BRANCH REPORT

AAUW members from the North District participated in several Sister Marches on Saturday, January 21. A few of our members traveled to Austin to be at the Main Event from Northeast Tarrant County and Tarrant County Branches! At least 20 members from 5 different branches were at the Denton March and approximately 36 combined from the Tarrant County and Northeast Tarrant County attended the March in Fort Worth. Members of the Dallas area branches marched in Dallas.

Barbara Cager and Gloria Long  
North District Reps



**As you know, the delegates at the AAUW Texas 2016 Convention passed the first dues increase in almost two decades. When your branch starts collecting dues beginning March 15, 2017, the AAUW Texas dues will be: \$13 for regular members, \$1 for student affiliates, and \$0 for Honorary Life Members.**



International Women's Day (**March 8**) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

This year's theme and hash tag is: **#BeBoldForChange** and **#IWD**. We encourage you to use International Women's Day (IWD) on **March 8** as an important opportunity to: Celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women because visibility and awareness help drive positive change for women. Declare bold actions you will take as an individual or organization to help progress the gender agenda because purposeful action can accelerate gender parity across the world.

If you or your branch plan to recognize International Women's Day let us know by emailing: [tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com](mailto:tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com) or call Melodía at 801.918.6832.

---

## PUBLIC POLICY: 2016-2017 IMPACT GRANT PROGRESS UPDATE

---

By: Mélodía Gutiérrez & Shenée Simon, Public Policy Co-Chairs

AAUW Texas is proud to be one of ten states to receive the Public Policy Impact Grant. AAUW continues to invest, fuel and empower our members who in turn are better equipped to serve and advocate for our communities. With the \$1000 grant we are able to increase our participation at our Lobby Day, TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017.

Earlier this month we submitted our mid-year report highlighting our accomplishments to date that have been submitted to AAUW National:

- Letters to the editor (LTE): 12
- Get Out to Vote Events (GOTV): 5
- New coalition partners: 4

Thank you to all of our branches and Public Policy Chairs. We look forward to continued success for the remainder of the grant term. Please share your successes with us, so that we are able to celebrate with you and highlight your efforts: [tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com](mailto:tx.aauw.policy@gmail.com). Stay tuned for updates on how your branch can receive a \$100 stipend to assist with travel and participation in Lobby Day.

Mélodía and I look forward to the great work we'll do together for women and girls in Texas!



# AAUW State Leadership

## 2016-2018 State Board Elected Members

President	Pam Wolfe
Program Vice-President	Dixie Christian
Membership Vice-President	Ginny Phoenix
AAUW Funds	Traci Jensen
Finance Officer	Gayna DuPont
Secretary / Historian	Susan Roehrig
Central District Rep.	Marina Rivers
North District-East Rep.	Barbara Cager
North District-West Rep.	Gloria Long
South District-North Rep.	Brenda Moss
South District-South Rep.	Malinda Gaul
West District Representative	Isabel Gutierrez

## Standing Committees

Parliamentarian / Bylaws	Ann Berasley
Public Policy	Melodia Gutierrez
Public Policy	Shenee Simon

## Appointed Officers

Branch Services Chair	Malinda Gaul
College / University Representative	Freda Bryson
Nominating Committee Co-Chairs	TBA
Younger Women's Task Force, Dallas	Sara Mahmood

## Communications Team

University Woman Texas Editor	Ashley Eklof
Website	Janani Janakiraman

## 2015-2017 AAUW Elected & Appointed National Leaders from Texas

Branch Program Resources	Karen Reichensperger
Committee	Malinda Gaul
Director	Traci Jensen
Director	Deirdre Trotter
Legal Advocacy Committee	Jeannie Best
Membership Committee	

## *In Memory*

It is with sorrow that we announce the passing of an AAUW member.

Myrna Raffkind of Amarillo, Texas was a long-time member of her AAUW chapter and an outstanding leader and philanthropist in the Amarillo community. She passed on January 31st, 2017 at the age of 77.

Myrna earned two master's degrees from West Texas A&M University and was the mother of four children.

Raffkind was named the 2010 Woman of the Year by the Amarillo Globe-News for her community activism.

"I think a love of learning is important in every day and age because, just, life is a learning experience," she said in a 2014 Globe-News interview.'

*Click to read obituary*

*Click to read the Amarillo Globe-News article honoring Raffkind's life*

---

UWT Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume 68 | Issue 2 | Winter 2017

Copyright © 2016 AAUW TX, All rights reserved.

<http://aauw-tx.aauw.net>

Our mailing address is:  
AAUW of Texas  
3601 Eagles Nest  
Round Rock, Texas 78665