



University Woman Texas!

Volume 63, Issue 6

Summer 2010

Opening Opportunities for Women and Girls

President's Message:

By Ann Berasley

Our convention theme was Opening Opportunities for Women and Girls. We had a wonderful convention, but it is only successful if the attendees take back to their branches their enthusiasm for AAUW and the information about how AAUW makes a difference.

I encourage you and your branch to take advantage of and seek out opportunities to further the AAUW mission. Avoid that common blinder to opportunities: "We have always done it that way!" As you plan for next year, look for ways for your programs and projects to involve more or different branch members, reach out to new members, and/or increase AAUW's impact or visibility in your community.

At the beginning of this biennium, I shared two quotes from Winston Churchill:

- "There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction."
- "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it

takes to sit down and listen."

AAUW Texas experienced many changes this biennium and I believe these changes are in the right direction. As we transition to the next biennium, I encourage the next state board, branch leaders and members to have the courage to stand up and speak to keep our organization moving in the right direction, and the courage to sit down and listen to each other.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your state president for the past two years. I have had the opportunity to work with a board comprised of women from around the state who are dedicated to our mission, committed to the branches, and persistent in their efforts to open opportunities for women and girls. These women, and the incoming AAUW Texas board members, are your branch mem-

bers. Next time you see them, please thank them for their work to strength-en our organization.

Welcome the 2010-2012 Biennium Officers

These candidates were unanimously elected:

President:	Margaret Bentley
Program VP:	Mary Edwards
Membership VP:	Jeannie Best
AAUW Funds:	Lucy Whittaker Barrington
Secretary/Historian:	Rosemary Morrow
Finance Officer:	Susan Alami

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Margaret Bentley, (center) AAUW Texas Finance Officer, opens each business session of the convention with a count of the attendees. She reported that more than 150 Texas Branch members attended. See this photograph and others on -line at [AAUW Texas Convention 2010](#). All photos in this edition were made by Jane Stilley and Barbara Schott.

Our Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Our Value Promise: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.



PEARL Winners were recognized at the AAUW Texas Convention. These are representatives of the Texas Branches that earned the PEARLized certificates for planning programs that reflected the five attributes of PEARL: Protect, Educate, Advocate, Research, and Lead.

Texas Branches earn 2009 - 2010 AAUW Texas 'PEARL' Awards

AAUW Texas recognizes its outstanding branches with the PEARL Award. Each letter of the PEARL acronym stands for: Protect, Educate, Advocate, Research, and Lead. These awards signify that "We are changing lives — opening opportunities through our PEARLs."

In 2009 there were 14 Texas Branches earning PEARL Awards. They are:

Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Farmers Branch/Carrollton, Kerrville, Montgomery County, Northeast

Tarrant County, North Harris County, Plano/Collin County, San Antonio, Tarrant County, Tyler and West Harris County.

For 2010 there were 11 Texas Branches recognized for their PEARL accomplishments. They are:

Abilene, Austin, Denton, Fort Bend, Kerrville, Montgomery County, North Harris County, Northeast Tarrant County, Tyler, Vernon, and West Harris County.



AAUW National Convention set for June 16-19, 2011

If you enjoyed the AAUW Texas Convention or missed it, then plan now to attend the AAUW National Convention which brings together more than a thousand women and men who are committed to education and equity for all women and girls.

The convention is open to all professionals, groups, institutions, and organizations that advocate women's leadership, social justice, and public policy and advance community programs, activism, coalition building, education, research, and assessment.

Attendees represent different backgrounds, cultures

and perspectives, but all are committed to a common theme of education and equity. Held biennially in odd numbered years, the convention offers plenary sessions, workshops, issue forums, and information about issues of community concern and provides personal and professional development opportunities.

Participants expand their personal and institutional capacity to enhance the lives of women and girls.

The convention will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C., June 16-19, 2011.

District Meeting Reports

South District Meeting

At the AAUW Texas South District Meeting the delegates unanimously elected Enny Schissler of West Harris County Branch and Rosemarie Herrmann of Harlingen Branch as their representatives to the state board for 2010-12. That being the only official business we then informally introduced branches and their members and had a sharing of branch activities.

Two branches have new and exciting projects. North Harris County described their third annual Klein Forrest High School Sophomore Summit and South East Harris County was set to host their first Expanding Your Horizons on May 8 at San Jacinto Junior College for girls from the Pasadena I.S.D. and Deer Park I.S.D. middle schools.

But perhaps the most exciting of all was to meet the two student affiliates from Alvin Community College and their sponsor Marjorie Nash. And when mention was made of their desire to go to NCCWSL, we literally passed a hat and \$310 was collected to help with tuition. Since then we have received word that they have raised another \$700 so that two young ladies will go to NCCWSL; Elizabeth Hickox, their president, and Alana Settes, their membership VP.



Elizabeth Hickox (left) and **Alana Settes** went to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

Central District Meeting

Elizabeth Newell was re-elected as Central District Representative. Attendees shared ideas about leadership training, discussed the Membership Payment Program, and made suggestions for future conventions. One suggestion for leadership training was to have a one-day district training and to try Webinar conferencing again for state-wide training.

The Kerrville Branch is trying the Membership Payment Program. President Anita Crane discussed the Program and answered questions. It was generally agreed that the convention is valuable as a way to network with other AAUW members. Suggestions included having a fitness break and holding a lottery to reimburse one attendee's registration fee.

Note from President-Elect Margaret Bentley

One of the most asked questions at the State Convention in Houston was, "Where will the next convention be held?" Nothing is yet scheduled, but the new State Board will be meeting in July to set goals for the coming biennium, including what to do about the biennial meeting as well as annual leadership training.

There is no question that this last convention in Houston was one of the best ever. It was wonderful to see old friends and make new ones. However, because of high costs, etc., the efforts of so many over most of the second year of the biennium attract only 5 percent of the membership, plus those working on the convention. For the few of us who attend, it is wonderful, but it seems to me that there must be a better way to fulfill the mission of the State Board in support of branches and members.

Your new Board will have a great deal to discuss in this regard in July. I welcome the input of all members. Please email me at desotom@tx.rr.com.

During this coming biennium, I would like to hold our Board meetings where your branch is located. I earnestly want to invite the participation of branches and their members. We need to hear from you so we know what you need and want us to do. I have spoken to some of you at the convention and plan to hold Board meetings in Nacogdoches and Kerrville, but need to hear from other branches who would like to have us visit your area. Please email me at desotom@tx.rr.com to let me know of your interest.

West District Meeting

The following West District Branches were represented at the State Convention and the District Meeting: Abilene, Amarillo, El Paso, and the Betty Anderson Lubbock Branch. Joy Van, Lubbock, was elected to the position of West District Representative.

There was discussion and plans made to form a West District Inter-Branch Council committed to staying in contact through the internet as West District branches are located so far apart.

Also discussed Branch Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, membership retention and new members, programming, branch meetings and community based 'outreach' projects (example: the success of the Lubbock Branch's Mother Daughter Program) as well as college/university partnerships.

North District Meeting

We elected the new District Representatives for the North District: Stephany Compton, Jan Domaracki, and Martha Matthews. Members present were asked to fill out a questionnaire indicating what services they wanted from their state organization.

Convention Memories—Here are a Few Highlights

By Celina Torres Fennell, Program Vice President

With a focus securely set on addressing the theme, “Opening Opportunities for Women and Girls,” the AAUW Texas State held a triumphant 44th Biennial Convention in Houston.

Among the highlights of the convention were the welcome address of the AAUW President, Carolyn Garfein; the keynote addresses of Linda Lorelle, Jeanne Goka and Suzanne Berman; the presentation of the Outstanding Member of Texas Award to Margaret Carlson and the Outstanding New Member Award to Laura Barousse.

Day One of the convention began with the rousing welcome of spirit of the Local Arrangement Committee headed by the tri-chairs, Margaret Carlson, Margo Johnson, and Andrea Needham wearing their green t-shirts for the aptly titled, “Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Math,” and their western feathered hats.

Annie Houle, National Director of the Campus and Community Initiatives: the WAGE Project presented the pre-convention workshop on “\$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Facilitators Training.” Trained facilitators will provide training to young women starting their careers to avoid gender gap through salary negotiation with the future employers.

At the General Session Opening, President Ann Berasley recognized the past presidents and made a special and touching memorial, “Moment of Remembrance” to the past-presidents who died during this biennium: Betty Anderson and Helen Oujesky.

President Berasley, in her Presidential Address, challenged the AAUW Texas members not to be constant in following and continuing what we used to do but look for new



National AAUW President ,Carolyn Garfein, (left) and Ann Berasley, AAUW Texas President, attend the Legacy Circle and President's Reception.

ways to meet our goals. She added that mistakes will occur, but we do learn from them. AAUW President Carolyn Garfein brought greetings from AAUW and presented a summary of what AAUW is doing during this transition year.

President Garfein, in her welcome address said, “State conventions are always where our vision takes shape, where we take stock of our accomplishments, share our successes, identify changes, and examine new opportunities; and where branches begin to prepare for the coming year.” Her advice to the conventioners: In whatever you do, be focused, be flexible, be fast, be flat, be friendly, and have fun.

Keynote Speaker: Linda Lorelle a well known Emmy award winning journalist was a powerhouse who provided inspiration to so many. Because of her love for children and passion for education she resigned her media position and founded the Linda Lorelle Foundation Fund to provide scholarship and support to Houston area students in need of financial aid and who would normally not have an opportunity to go to college.



Linda Lorelle

Since its inception, the Scholarship Fund has awarded more that \$2.2 million in scholarship support to 268 students in the Houston area. Some of the graduates are now serving on the board of the Foundation. Linda Lorelle's future goal is massive and ambitious; extend the scholarship beyond Houston to include State of Texas and eventually to the whole USA.



Celina Torres Fennell, (l to r) AAUW Texas VP for Programs, AAUW President, Carolyn Garfein, and Annie Houle, National Director of the Campus and Community Initiatives: the WAGE Project, discuss the convention.

Convention (continued)

The day ended with a "Welcome Reception" to recognize 11 AAUW Texas Outstanding Branches with the PEARL Award and to meet the candidates for the next biennium. The first night reception featured wonderful entertainment and food and a time when members mingle, catch-up with old friends and make new friends from other branches.

DAY TWO started with a well-attended Round Table Discussion and Continental Breakfast. Kudos to these discussion facilitators for the informative dialogues with members:

<u>Facilitators</u>	<u>Topics</u>
Kathy Anthon	AAUW National: What's Going On
Jeannie Best	New Horizons for Girls
Malinda Gaul	Public Policy
Anita Knight	Legacy Circle
Mynda McGuire	Newsletters
Maria Viera-Williams	Diversity

Ann Berasley, AAUW State President, presided over the business meetings, on Saturday and Sunday. Reports were given by several members of the state board on the business of the two years prior to the convention, proposed bylaws changes were debated and voted on, and new officers were elected.

During the breaks in the business convention and programs, attendees took advantage of the educational and enriching experiences at the different workshop sessions presented by our able members. We wish we could have attended all of them.

Saturday luncheon, Carolyn Garfein in her anchor appearance spoke of "Breaking Through Barriers: AAUW Uniting Force.

Saturday's Educational Foundation Dinner gave us the opportunity to recognize a Texas Star, our own Ann Richards. Another dynamic woman, Jeanne Goka, the first principal of Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, is the reason for the

success of the school and students. She leads the mission to educate young women and provides them skills necessary to be successful in colleges and their careers.

Sunday Morning: The International Brunch: Suzanne Berman, CARE Field Coordinator of the Central Region, Texas addressed the attendees of CARE.

CARE is the leading humanitarian organization dedicated to fighting

global poverty and social injustice, giving special emphasis on investing in women and girls because women yields benefits for the entire family, community, and society. She has the power to change the world and we were charged by Berman, "and you have the power to help her do it."

The unanimously elected AAUW Texas Board for 2010-2012 were presented: President, Margaret Bentley (SW Dallas County); Program VP, Mary Edwards (West Harris County); Membership VP, Jeannie Best (Abilene); AAUW Funds, Lucy Whitaker-Barrington (Lubbock); Secretary/Historian, Rosemary Morrow (Austin); and Finance Officer Susan Alami (Houston).

This convention overwhelmingly proved that Texas members will work passionately to Open Opportunities for Women and Girls.



Anita Knight (left), thanks Jeanne Goka at the Ann Richards Educational Foundation Dinner.

Margaret Carlson earns the AAUW Texas Outstanding Member Award

Margaret Ann Carlson was welcomed to Houston, Texas back in 1976. Since that time she has made significant and lasting contributions to AAUW Texas. Her contributions have improved both the organization and the lives of girls and women in the state.

A math major at Vanderbilt University the Expanding Your Horizons program in Science and Mathematics for middle school girls was a natural for Margaret. She also raised more than \$100,000 in grants to underwrite EYH.

Since 1993 more than 10,000 young women students have been exposed to this powerful program.



Margaret Ann Carlson

During her 34 years in Texas she has served in many AAUW Texas positions. For example, she chaired a

Structure and Bylaws Taskforce that led to the creation of District Directors; served four years as *University Texas Woman!* Editor and as Bylaws Chair and as Parliamentarian.

At other times she was state Treasurer, Secretary, and co-chaired the committee to bring the 1987 National Convention to Houston.

Margaret's favorite saying is "You can do it! I'll be right there to support you." and with her enthusiasm and ready smile, you know you can. Margaret is truly an outstanding member whose life has been molded by AAUW and who has helped mold AAUW Texas.

The Outstanding Member Award for 2010 was presented to her at the Texas Convention.

Final Reports of the 2008-2010 Biennium

Legal Action Fund Report

By Kathy Anthon, LAF Vice President

It's always exciting to hear about the work that AAUW does in the LAF arena.

On May 11th the LAF and public policy staff held a conference call on Elena Kagan, the U.S. Supreme Court nominee, the impact of the court on women's lives, and the latest LAF programs. There was a great turn out and many great questions and comments. Thanks to the staff for putting together such a great program.

Along with continuing our support of many individual cases AAUW also supported and signed an Amicus Brief that was argued in the Supreme Court (*Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*). The court will decide whether or not the University Of California Hastings College Of Law may deny school funding to a religious student organization because the group requires its officers and voting members to agree with its religious viewpoints.

As your branch gathers to plan mission based programs for next year you may want to include the Program in a Box on Campus Sexual Assault. Use this topic to work with your college and university partners or as a recruiting tool for new members. It would be ideal for those who have an Associates Degree or our newly out of college. For Equal Pay Day, consider \$mart \$tart training or a panel of local attorneys who work in the pay equity area.

Thanks to the Huntsville Branch that had the highest per capita donations to LAF and for the San Antonio Branch which had the top total donations for 2009. Congratulations to these two branches and all of the other contributing branches.

AAUW Texas Financial Report presented at 2010 Convention

By Margaret Bentley, Financial Officer

Year-to-date financials through March 31, 2010, which do not reflect Convention accounting show that AAUW-TX is currently under that the 2010 budget.

Convention accounting is being handled separately until the final numbers are in. It appears Convention will at least break even.

When a branch goes inactive, according to National, branch funds are now to be turned over to AAUW-TX. Over the past several years, AAUW-TX has been conservator for funds from several such branches. When National AAUW amended policies with respect to chartering new branches, it was no longer necessary to preserve existing charters since branch formation is now simplified. Accordingly, distribution of funds under conservatorship was approved as follows:

- Funds which were identified as the result of bequests were given to branches whose scholarships served the same groups as intended in bequests and the remaining over \$5,000 was donated to the Ann Richards Fund satisfying the remaining bequest.
- Those funds which were from branch general funds were placed in a new AAUW-TX restricted fund for the development of new Texas branches. The resulting fund balance is now approximately \$6,500.

The Membership Pilot Program adopted by a few Texas branches last year has gone very well and has been adopted by National with a few changes. Check the AAUW-TX website for details presented at convention.

And finally, these are the last few months of my four years as AAUW-TX Finance Officer. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve AAUW-TX and the branches in all financial matters. It has given me an opportunity to work with many of you to help resolve day-to-day and sometimes unusually difficult problems. Thank you all for your support.

Note: Financial materials presented at the workshop can be found on the AAUW-TX website.



Linda Tisdale, San Antonio (left) and Kathy Anton discuss their mutual LAF interests.

Educational Foundation Report

By Anita Knight, Texas AAUW VP for the Educational Foundation

Thanks to all who bought more than 500 tickets for star quilt raffle both before and at the convention.

Jill Harmuth of the Houston branch was the lucky winner in the quilt raffle drawing Sat. night after dinner. Thanks again to Jan Roberts of the Austin Branch's Creative Stitchery study group who crafted the quilt in the red, white, and blue design to match our Ann Richards pin, and to Castle Path Quilting in Round Rock who donated the final quilting.

Susan Boone bought the most (100) raffle tickets and got an Ann Richards star pin, plus she won an extra pin in the raffle drawing. (Since we received almost \$500 from raffle ticket sales, we drew for five pins after the quilt drawing.)

Total contributions from our Texas branches to the Educational Foundation for 2008 were \$48,099.40, and in 2009 the contributions were \$31,268.85.

Besides the more than \$5,000 from AAUW-Texas from disbanded Bryan College Station branch, an additional set of checks was received for \$100 or more to add \$1,000 to the Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund.

Another \$351 was submitted after the convention, so the total for fund 4324 should be $\$34,810.24 + \$351 = \$35,161.24$.

I was pleased to send a few files and recent past EF history to our



Jill Harmuth of Houston won the drawing for this Quilt which is a likeness of the pin awarded for donations of \$100 or more to the growing Ann Richards American Fellowship.

new AAUW Funds VP, Lucy Barrington. She has great fund-raising ideas and enthusiasm, so our AAUW contributions will be in good hands. There are still over 100 Ann Richards commemorative pins for additional donors to the new American Fellowship fund in honor of Governor Ann Richards (think USA, not just Texas).



The last Board Meeting of the 2008-2010 Biennium was held just before the Convention got underway.

Final AAUW Texas Board Meeting Wraps-Up 2008-2010 Biennium

By Dusky Wells, AAUW Texas Secretary

The final Board of Directors meeting for 2008-2010 Biennium was held on Friday morning, April 23, 2010.

- Special guest in attendance was Carolyn Garfein, National President AAUW
- Strategic Plan – updated version to be forwarded to new

Board to give a snapshot of work done during last biennium.

- Ann Berasley was presented an AAUW scarf and a 'Girl' pendant from her Board as recognition of her dedication and service over last two years.

Many thanks and recognition given for all the work done to make the state convention happen.

Membership Report for the Biennium

By Priscilla Mowinkel, AAUW Texas Membership VP

It has been a very rewarding experience serving the last four years as your Membership Vice President. I am confident that my good friend, Jeannie Best of Abilene will be continue to serve the present and future Texas AAUW membership to the best of her ability. I will always be available to her should she need help. It is a massive job so please have someone in the Membership Vice president position for your branch. Keep in mind that as members of AAUW you belong to a community that breaks through education and economic barriers so that women have a fair chance. If you market this "value statement" you will gain membership.

Texas Branches – 39

Texas AAUW Branch Members –

1,992 (TX Financial Officer's Report)

- 2,021 (AAUW Feb.1 count for fiscal year 2010)

Texas AAUW membership is down 7.59% for 2009-2010

Texas Retention Rate – 81.36%

Retention Rate (Based on retention of members from year to year)

(Texas Financial Officer's Report)

Congratulations to the following Branches with the BEST Retention Rate

Mesquite 116.7%

Montgomery County 100%

Greenville 100%

Arlington 100%

Texas Membership Rate down -7.59%

Congratulations to the following Branches with the BEST Rate Increase

Mesquite 40%

Abilene 32.65%

Lubbock	12.70%
Austin	10.53%
Huntsville	10%
Houston	9.52%
Arlington	5.49%

Congratulations to the following Branches with Most New Members (Texas Financial Officer's Report)

West Harris County	37
Austin	28
Tyler	18
Abilene	17
Kerrville	11

Texas' Largest Branches (AAUW Feb.1 count for fiscal year 2010)

West Harris County	214
Austin	147
Tyler	116
North Harris County	111
San Antonio Inc	104

Texas College/University Partners - 24

Members-AT-Large Living in Texas - 1,183

Registered E-Student Affiliates – 41 (Verified-5)

Membership Committee community event involvement and marketing.

Texas Women's University (4 workers) Diversity conference

University of North Texas (4 workers) Diversity conference

University Texas at Arlington – Campaign College – Maria Viera-Williams

AAUW Texas Convention Adopts Public Policy Program

By Malinda Gaul, AAUW Texas Public Policy Chair

At the AAUW Texas Convention, the delegates adopted the Public Policy Program adopted at the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis.

Download a copy of the Public Policy Brochure for distribution at your Branch meetings at http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/upload/2009-11_PPP_brochure-2.pdf. AAUW priority items:

Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182) and America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Engineering and Science Reauthorization Act (H.R. 5116). Call your Representative and Senators today!!!



Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. Get the Equal Pay twibbon at <http://twibbon.com/join/Support-Equal-Pay!>

Additional Houston Convention Highlights with internet links

It was all about people!

By Jane Stilley

It was about the people at the convention. Sure, it's about what is accomplished, what is hoped to be accomplished, what is introduced, what is discussed, what we may be agitated about, but when all is said and done, and when we recount afterwards, we may remember the landmark decisions made, but what sticks more in our minds (and hearts) it is the people who were there.

Carolyn Garfein – National President, [AAUW](#).

She brought us three times the impact, multiple times the useful information and a thought provoking can do attitude; We are lucky that the exuberant Carolyn, is our national president! Speaking without notes and without a PowerPoint presentation rolling in the background she brought us her six F's: Focused, Flexible, Fast, Flat, Friendly, and Fun to the convention. We all stand in awe, Carolyn. Thanks for coming to our convention and for staying for the entire event!

Ann Berasley, 2008-2010 President, [AAUW Texas](#)

In recounting her two years in office, Ann focused on, among other challenges, the ability and zeal to try the new, not always accepting the tried and true (or "how we used to do things") attitude. Ann pointed out that it's okay to find out whether a new plan works or not, because no matter what, we always learn from it. Texas AAUW has taken on some new attitudes, new attributes, and new up-to-date methodology. Of special interest is the activity on the virtual side of AAUW – so much of AAUW is now available through the internet, including "branch" membership too! Branches do not have to have geographical

Jolanda Jones, a Houston Councilwoman was pitch-hitting for the Houston Mayor and bringing greeting to our Convention. [Jolanda Jones](#) (a former student of our Marietta Hostak) was quite a dynamo speaker! She caused us all to laugh appreciatively as she praised AAUW, "Any group who knows who Lilly Ledbetter is, and any group who knows about Title IX, I want to hang out with you." It goes without saying, that she was handed a membership application immediately following her presentation.

Linda Lorelle, our Friday night Keynote Speaker was introduced by Celina Torres-Fennell. Linda who is no longer in broadcast journalism, has reached out to a different audience by establishing a foundation for scholarships for Houston area teenagers, who are intellectually, but not financially, eligible for college.

That is where her Linda Lorelle's Foundation comes into play. She has zeroed in on a group of kids who are not in that top 5 to 10 percent, because their life circumstances

have not allowed them to compete at that level. Since the foundation was established, over 200 scholarships have been awarded. What makes this scholarship program so successful is that the finalists must attend a series of monthly seminars, seminars that are designed specifically to help them transition to a successful college education.

Honoring our home grown heroine: Ann Richards

Speaker at the Educational Foundation Dinner Saturday night was Jeanne Goka, Principal of the [Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders](#). Vibrant, upbeat, youthful and wise beyond her years, Jeanne took us through the history of the formation and first three years of this champion school, already on the Exemplary list for TAS scores. Under her leadership, the school and its graduates have a very bright future, indeed.



PEARLS prevailed at the convention, on center-pieces and also worn by many of the attendees.

Kathy Anthon, Legal Action Fund VP, introduced **Carolyn Garfein**, AAUW President, who was our speaker at the Saturday Luncheon for the Legal Action Fund.

Suzanne Berman was our International Brunch speaker. She was introduced by **Maria Viera-Williams**. Suzanne is a field coordinator in Austin, Texas for [CARE](#) but has travelled extensively to various sites in third world countries. She has focused on women and girls, with such programs as "Gender Based Violence," "Mothers Matter," "Power Within" (taking advantage of opportunities in school), and "Maternal Health." Here is a link to the [GIRL EFFECT video](#) we saw during the final Brunch meeting.



Center pieces at the Saturday Dinner featured Texas Stars and AAUW Pearls.



These hard working members of Houston's Local Arrangements Committee were easily spotted as most were wearing cowboy hats and green shirts. Some other members were too busy to get in the photo!

Convention 2010 – Houston style!

Take another gander at the local arrangements committee. All are boundlessly energetic, hard working, detail oriented, committed members from assorted greater Houston Inter-branch branches!

Special thanks to our splendid three co-chairs: Margaret Carlson, Margo Johnson and Andrea Needham and their advisors, Marietta Hostak and Patricia Ross.

Volunteers were: Margaret Bentley, Susan Boone, Debbie Campbell, Gwen Crockett, Mary Edwards, Linda Gilbert, Mary Gubert, Jan Mann, Linda Morgan, Brenda Moss, Pat

Osborne, Catherine Robichaux, Enny Schissler, Barbara Schott, Mary Ann Stanley, Judy Starr, Delia Stephens, Jane Stilley, Ann Sullivan and Carol Telfer.

Huge kudos to Catherine Robichaux: creator, editor, publisher of the fabulous program for the convention. Huzzahs and high five's to Catherine's husband who was oh so instrumental in getting the electronics to all work in the way anticipated!

Let's not forget our Brenda Moss who was not only in charge of the Friday afternoon tour to Bayou Bend, but also, wrapped all 120+ Payday candy bars with the special wrapping for the Pay Equity theme!

Laura Barousse Receives the Outstanding New Member Award

The lifeblood of any organization is its membership, and as every organization knows, there are members and then there are members.

In the short time Laura Barousse has been a member of North Harris County Branch of AAUW, she has distinguished herself.

Laura joined the North Harris County Branch of AAUW in August 2007. She was invited to join by branch members who met her in connection with their volunteer work at the new local art museum.

The branch members were impressed with Laura's volunteer work at the museum, particularly her dedication to the

museum's outreach programs and the organizational talents she brought to those programs.

Upon joining AAUW, Laura lost no time in transferring those same traits to branch activities. Merely six months after joining, she was asked to accept the vacant position of Vice President for Membership, an office she readily accepted.

In that capacity, Laura has sent out AAUW information to prospective branch members, and upon their becoming members, she has taken steps to assure them that their membership is valued by the branch, which has resulted in their becoming active in branch activities.



Laura Barousse

2010 AAUW FIVE-STATE CONFERENCE

June 11-12, 2010

Crowne Plaza, 201 S Shackelford, Little Rock AR

501-223-3000

Information Sheet

Program

Carolyn Garfein, national president, will be the keynote speaker for the event on Saturday morning. The 10 breakout sessions will include the following: Reviewing the by-law changes voted upon in St. Louis; sex discrimination: a STEM project review; ERA; challenges to our democratic government; an open AAUW Forum; a panel of women elected officials; and several other current topics.

Other special program features include an LAF presentation, fundraisers for AAUW funds, opportunities for sightseeing adventures, and an evening reception. Additional exciting activities are in the planning stages. Program updates will be available on a regular basis.

Hotel Information:

The recently renovated, beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel will be conference headquarters. AAUW has reserved a block of rooms for attendees. Rates are a very reasonable \$119.60 (including tax) per room; three people can comfortably be housed per room. Rates apply for two days prior and two days following the event. To make hotel reservations, call 501-223-3000 or 866-276-6648. Parking is complimentary.

Special Events

Friday Evening Reception

All attendees are welcome to the opening reception on Friday evening, June 11, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the hotel lobby. Drinks and lite refreshments will be available.

Eleanor Roosevelt Run/Walk

This will be a special activity on Saturday morning. Maria Jones is in charge; contact her at mhjones2@comcast.net or 501-663-7729. See special registration sheet for this activity.

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction will benefit your state and branch. Bring items for this auction and realize funds for your contributions to LAF at the state and branch levels. Contact Susan Roehrig at susanpttx@yahoo.com. The sales area will be open from 5:00 to 8:00 pm Friday evening and Saturday most of the day.

Optional Special Tours

There are several wonderful sites to visit in the area. Although no formal conference trips are planned, on Thursday or Friday morning prior to the conference, attendees can avail themselves of the Clinton Library, the Arkansas State Capitol, several arts centers and museums, the riverfront area, the Heifer International headquarters, Central High School National Historic Site and any number of other exciting venues.

2010 AAUW FIVE-STATE CONFERENCE*

June 11-12, 2010
 Crowne Plaza
 201 S Shackleford, Little Rock AR
 501-223-3000

Registration Form

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____
 BRANCH: _____

____ Branch President
 ____ Branch Member
 ____ Current State President
 ____ Student Affiliate
 ____ Other

____ State AAUW Board
 ____ Member at Large
 ____ Former State President
 ____ College/University Rep
 ____ First AAUW Conference

____ Conference Registration** \$35.00 _____
 ____ Gala Luncheon (Please check one) 20.00 _____
 ____ Turkey Wrap _____
 ____ Salad Trio (Pasta, Chicken, Tuna) _____
 (All entrees accompanied by rolls, drinks, dessert.) _____
 ____ Donation for a Student Conference Registration _____
 Total _____

(**This includes Reception Friday evening, Saturday morning breakfast,
all conference materials, and other miscellaneous conference expenses.)

If you have special needs, please list below.

Make checks payable to: AAUW Five-State Conference
 Deadline: June 5, 2010
 Mail to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Berquist, Manchester MO 63011
 636-227-0511 or davis-mcdonald@juno.com
 Information: Contact sbreeze@mindspring.com

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the hotel at 501-223-3000 or 866-276-6648.
 See separate sheet on hotel and other arrangements.

*Originally the SWC Regional Conference



Table talk prevailed during all the sit-down meals of the Convention.



It was a celebration of AAUW and its issues, as (l to r) Andrea Needham, Margo Johnson and Anita Knight toast a successful AAUW Texas Convention.



Between sessions the halls were alive with talk as attendees meet new people and greet old friends.

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Margaret Bentley and Margaret Ann Carlson find time for a conversation.

All these Convention photos are by Barbara Schott and Jane Stilley.



Mary Edwards and her gracious husband hosted a dinner for the AAUW Texas Board and Convention speakers at their home on Thursday night before the Convention.



AAUW President Caryl Garfein meets Elaine Wells, (r.) and Dusky Wells, and Janet Peavler.



The AAUW Texas Gavel was passed from President Ann Berasley (left) to President-Elect Margaret Bentley, who takes office July 1, 2010.



Catherine Robichaux and her husband contributed time and effort to the Convention. Catherine produced the outstanding Convention Program, and her husband kept the audio-visual equipment working properly.



Suzanne Berman, CARE Field Coordinator of the Central Region, Texas inspired the attendees with stories of how CARE works with third-world women.

To see additional photos of the Convention visit
[AAUW Texas Convention 2010](#)