**Overview/History of AAUW**



**Who We Are**

For more than 130 years, AAUW has been one of the nation’s leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls.

Through its nationwide network, AAUW opens doors for women and girls and influences public debate on critical social issues such as education, civil rights, and workplace equity. AAUW sponsors community programs, publishes groundbreaking research on women and girls, is one of the world’s largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women, and fights sex discrimination in all levels of education.

**Mission**

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

**History**

AAUW began in 1881, when Marion Talbot called a meeting of 17 women graduates—the first generation of alumnae. The purpose was unique: to support each other and future generations of women in higher education. The Association of Collegiate Alumnae was formally established in 1882, merging with the Southern Association of College Women and the Western Association of Collegiate Alumnae in 1921 to create the American Association of University Women. For more complete information on AAUW’s history, see the AAUW Online Museum at: [**https://svc.aauw.org/museum/welcome/index.cfm**](https://svc.aauw.org/museum/welcome/index.cfm)**.**.

**What AAUW Does**

The power of AAUW stems from its 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college and university partners nationwide. Members hold an associate’s or equivalent, bachelors, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Members range from recent college graduates to women in a variety of professions. Student affiliates are working toward their first degree. Higher education institutions can join AAUW through the college/university partnership program. AAUW activities focus on several areas:

* Hosting programs that promote opportunities for women and girls in schools, at work, and in local communities. Training tomorrow’s leaders through professional development conferences, workshops, and materials, including the AAUW National

Conference for College Women Student Leaders and the biennial AAUW National Convention

* Mobilizing voters on issues of concern to women and their families through the AAUW Voter Education Campaign and Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout program
* Informing and influencing local, state, and federal policy-makers on AAUW’s policy priorities, including a strong system of public education; affordable, quality higher education; Title IX, reproductive rights, affirmative action, and other civil rights; a fair and balanced judiciary; work-place equity and equal pay; and retirement security
* Convening coalitions with diverse groups, educators, parents, and businesses
* Awarding about $4 million each year in fellowships, grants, and awards to help women achieve their goals and to promote equity in schools and communities. More than 8,000 women from more than 130 nations have received support from AAUW
* Conducting landmark research exploring issues concerning women, girls, and education. Recent reports include: *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* (2011); *Why So Few? Women in Science,Technology, Engineering and Math* (2010); *Where the Girls Are* (2008)
* Providing financial support for sex discrimination lawsuits against colleges and universities
* Providing a network of volunteer attorneys and social scientists who consult with women on legal strategy, resources, and the strength of current or potential cases
* Reaching out to campuses and communities to raise awareness about sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace

### Governance

The AAUW Board of Directors governs in accordance with its charter and bylaws.

The AAUW Board consists of two elected officers and thirteen directors-at-large. The AAUW executive director serves ex officio. The president and vice president and ten board members are elected by the membership at the AAUW biennial convention. Three additional directors-at-large are appointed by the elected board. A financial officer and secretary are appointed from among the elected and appointed board members.

### Professional Staff

Executive Director—An executive director oversees the work of AAUW.

Management Team*—*The Management Team consists of the executive director and heads of key staff departments.

Functional Staff*—*Employees cover the following functional areas:

* Communications, finance and administration, development, and information systems
* Membership, programs, and public policy and government relations
* Fellowship and grants programs, research, and Legal Advocacy Fund operations and programs

### Structure and Tax Status

AAUW includes both a section 501(c)(3) public charity, the primary membership organization, and the AAUW Action Fund, a smaller 501 (c)(4) social welfare organization that may engage in limited activities related to member activism and voter education.

### Sources of Support

AAUW is supported by member dues, affinity and other non-dues revenue programs, and individuals committed to its work, as well as corporate and foundation gifts and grants.

**AAUW Statements and Value Promise**

***Vision Statement:*** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.



***Mission Statement:*** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

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

***Diversity Statement:*** In principle and 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, disability, or class.

## AAUW Hierarchy As It Pertains To Texas

### AAUW — the principal corporation

**State** —Texas

**District** —a geographical subdivision of AAUW TX which is represented on the   
AAUW TX Board of Directors by one or more district representatives

**Interbranch** —an organization of branches which comes together to meet a common goal, and may or may not coincide with the district

**Branch** —the local unit of AAUW Texas

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

AAUW was one of the founding members of the International Federation of University Women. The current relationship is under review. In June 2004, the AAUW Board voted to cease paying IFUW dues because of current financial restraints. At the 2007 Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, the membership voted to withdraw membership in IFUW.

**AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM, 2013–2015**



The Public Policy Program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon more than 130 years of responsible public participation, and the following principles provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy- and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

**PUBLIC POLICY PRINCIPALS FOR ACTION**

Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW believes that quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to economic prosperity and gender equality. We advocate equitable climates free of harassment and bullying, academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities. We advocate increased access to higher education, especially for women in poverty. We promote equitable efforts to close the persistent achievement gap that disproportionately affects low-income children and students from minority communities.

AAUW promotes the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, reduction of poverty, a livable wage, quality affordable dependent care, paid family and medical leave, decent and affordable housing, quality affordable and accessible health care, and a clean and healthful environment. We support a Social Security system that provides inflation-protected, guaranteed lifetime benefits with a progressive benefit formula, spousal and widow benefits, and disability and survivor benefits. We oppose any efforts to undermine Medicare and Medicaid, including privatization and block grant proposals.

AAUW believes in the right to privacy, freedom from violence, and choice in the determination of one's reproductive life. We firmly believe in the separation of church and state. We support a fair, balanced, and independent judiciary. We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community.

AAUW supports affirmative action to improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity and affirms our commitment to passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. We see an urgent need for meaningful campaign finance reform and nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office. AAUW values and is committed to the arts and humanities, which develop and enhance our pluralistic cultural heritage.

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people. We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status. We support a strengthened United Nations and its affiliated agencies. We advocate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from the 4th World Conference on Women and subsequent declarations. We affirm our active participation in the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women and our commitment to the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). We support international family planning programs that are consistent with AAUW policy.

**BIENNIAL ACTION PRIORITIES**

Biennial priorities for federal action are chosen according to the criteria of viability, critical need, strong member support, and potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. No order of importance is implied.

**To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, AAUW advocates**

* Adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students
* Opposition to the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools
* Protection of programs that meet the needs of girls and women in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education, including strong promotion of STEM education and comprehensive sex education and vigorous enforcement of Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
* Increased support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations
* Increased support for programs that break through barriers for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields

**To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW advocates**

* Pay equity and fairness in compensation
* Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment antidiscrimination statutes
* Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance
* Programs that provide women with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including nontraditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship
* Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education, to improve postsecondary education access, career development, and earning potential
* Strengthening retirement benefits and programs, including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization

**To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW advocates**

* Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including voting rights
* Choice in the determination of one’s reproductive life
* Freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities
* Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights
* Support for U.N. programs that address human rights and women's and girls' concerns
* Freedom in definition of family and guarantee of civil rights in all family structures

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM!**

[Download and print the public policy program brochure](http://www.aauw.org/act/issue_advocacy/upload/publicpolicyprogrambrochure.pdf)and distribute it at branch and coalition meetings, voter education events, community gatherings, or anywhere else where women gather. Up to 10 copies of the brochure are available to members free of charge from the Connect2AAUW. For additional copies, contact Shop AAUW at 800/225-9998. For more information, call 800/326-AAUW (2289) or e-mail [votered@aauw.org](mailto:votered@aauw.org).



**Brief History of AAUW Texas**

The Texas Division was organized in Dallas October 1926, with ten charter branches and fewer than six hundred members. The original branches were Amarillo, Austin, Commerce, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Lubbock, San Antonio and Waco. The San Antonio and Fort Worth branches belonged to the Southern Association of College Women before 1921. At its peak, AAUW Texas had over one hundred branches within the state and a combined membership of almost nine thousand.

AAUW Texas has a rich history of community, state, and international involvement. Successful community projects have marked the history of AAUW TX branches. These include support for cultural activities, monitoring the use of local and state tax revenues, Conferences, Educational Equity Roundtables, Sister-to- Sister Conferences and programs to assist nontraditional students.

Many individual members have received AAUW fellowships and grants that provided financial assistance for publication of children’s books, history projects, competition of higher degrees, and change of careers. AAUW Texas members have been individually and collectively involved in activities that have improved their communities and enhanced the status of women.

AAUW Texas has played an active part in the Legal Advocacy Fund since its inception in 1983. Former AAUW TX President Sylvia Newman was the second President of LAF. Several cases involving Texas Universities have been supported by the Fund. Three Texas universities have received Progress in Equity Awards for their efforts to advance equity on their campuses: NETWORKS, Collin County Community College (2000), Southern Methodist University Women's Symposium The Education of Women for Social and Political Leadership (1996) and the Mary Hufford Hall, Texas Woman's University (1992).

AAUW TX has historically supported those legislative issues which critically impact the women and children of the state. Major thrusts have included: support of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), support of specific acts which positively affect the status of women, endorsement of legislation aimed at improving the status of Texas schools and support of public policy which expands appreciation of the arts. AAUW TX is a sponsor of Women’s Legislative Days. Recently, AAUW has worked in coalition with a variety of other groups, including the Texas Freedom Network, Coalition for Public Schools and the Texas Women’s Coalition.

The archives for AAUW Texas are located in the Texas Woman’s University Library. In 1951, TWU generously provided space and personnel to provide a permanent home for the State historical materials.

The history of AAUW Texas, as well as the histories of the other four states in the Southwest Central Region, has been compiled in two publications. The first was published in 1966, and the second in 1976 in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Southwest Central Region.

**AAUW TEXAS PAST PRESIDENTS**



1926 Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames Georgetown

1926 - 1928 Mrs. Barbara Hogan Fort Worth

1928 - 1930 Mrs. E. G. Sellards Austin

1930 - 1932 Mrs. Earl Wyatt Amarillo

1932 - 1934 Miss Gladys Morgan San Antonio

1934 - 1936 Dr. Evelyn Carrington Dallas

1936 - 1938 Mrs. I. M. Alexander Corpus Christi

1938 - 1941 Dr. Anna Powell Denton

1941 - 1943 Mrs. A. A. Brown San Antonio

1943 - 1945 Mrs. Bruce Duncan Waco

1945 - 1947 Dr. Margaret Lee Wiley Denton

1947 - 1949 Dr. Pearl Ponsford El Paso

1949 - 1951 Miss May Jones Stephenville

1951 - 1953 Dr. Vera Rogers Maxwell Fort Worth

1953 - 1955 Mrs. Burkella Ochsner Amarillo

1955 - 1957 Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor Greenville

1957 - 1959 Dr. Gladys Hicks Newman Waco

1959 - 1961 Mrs. J. H. Sorrels Bryan-College Station

1961 - 1963 Mrs. Eunice Brown Dallas

1963 - 1965 Mrs. Florence Weiss Kerrville

1965 - 1967 Mrs. Mary Haslam Orange

1967 - 1969 Mrs. Catherine Pedlar San Antonio

1969 - 1971 Dr. Allena K. Pace Huntsville

1971 - 1973 Mrs. Jeanette Pool San Marcos

1973 - 1975 Mrs. Polly Orcutt Dallas

1975 - 1977 Mrs. Faye Maxwell El Paso

1977 - 1979 Mrs. Juanita Cole Abilene

1979 - 1981 Mrs. Alice W. Church Houston

1981 - 1983 Dr. Lynnette K. Solomon Nacogdoches

1983 - 1984 Marian Johnson Hurst

1984 - 1986 Rema Lou Brown Clear Lake City

1986 - 1988 Irene T. Ramirez Dallas

1988 - 1990 Sylvia Newman Abilene

1990 - 1992 Betty Anderson Lubbock

1992 - 1994 Sharon Schmelzle Southwest Dallas County

1994 - 1996 Dr. Helen Oujesky San Antonio

1996 - 1998 Carol Cushman Tyler

1998 - 2000 Betty McClure Plano

2000 - 2002 Dr. Nora Garza Laredo

2002 - 2004 Malinda Gaul San Antonio

2004 - 2006 Pat Ross Houston

2006 - 2008 Linda Conger Austin

2008 – 2010 Ann Berasley Austin

2010 – 2011 Margaret Bentley DeSoto

2011 - 2014 Jeannie Best Abilene

**ACTIVE AAUW TEXAS BRANCHES**



Date of Formation

Abilene\* 1932

Alvin 1949

Amarillo 1923

Arlington\* 1952

Austin 1923

Brownfield 1953

Bryan-College Station\*\* 1948

Corpus Christi 1927

Dallas 1908

Denton 1927

El Paso 1915

Farmers Branch / Carrollton 1974

Fort Bend County 1974

Georgetown 1923

Grand Prairie\*\* 1969

Greater Lewisville\*\* 1992

Greenville 1955

Harlingen 1952

Houston 1937

Huntsville 1928

Kerrville 1954

Kingsville\*\* 1929

\* Indicates Name Change

O. C. Cooper to Abilene Branch

Duncanville to Southwest Dallas Co.

Hurst to Northeast Tarrant Co.

Canyon merged with Amarillo

Laredo\*\* 1953

Lubbock/Betty Anderson\* 1925

McAllen 1950

Mesquite 1951

Montgomery County 1973/1988,1992

Nacogdoches 1931

North Harris County 1974

Northeast Tarrant County\* 1969

Orange 1949

Plano/Collin County\* 1974

Polk County 1980

Richardson 1967

San Antonio 1908

Sherman/Texoma\* 1949

Southeast Harris County 1991

Southwest Dallas County\* 1971

Stephenville 1933

Tarrant County 1972

Tyler 1931

Vernon 1953

West Harris County 1976

Wichita Falls 1927

\*\* Inactive, not officially disbanded

###### Former AAUW Texas Branches

## Date of Formation/Date of Disbandment

Alamo City 1972/1986

Alice 1966/1988

Alpine 1936/2006

Andrews 1958/1980

Athens 1972/1993

Baytown 1938/1998

Beaumont 1937/1996

Bee County 1974/1996

Belton 1928/1997

Big Springs 1940/1988

Borger 1935/1995

Brazosport 1947/2000

Brenham 1941/1990

Brownwood 1930/1990

Canyon\*\* 1928

Childress 1933/1997

Clear Lake City 1972/1997

Cleburne 1950/1994

Commerce 1925/1998

Copperas Cove 1969/ 2000

Crane 1959/1980

Del Rio 1969/1988

Dickinson 1969/1976

Dumas 1954/1991

Duncanville\* 1954/1991

Edinburg 1955/1990

Ellis County 1941/1988

Fort Worth 1913/2007

Galveston 1938/1992

Garland 1974/ 2001

Greater Brownsville 1983/1997

Hardin County 1978/1988

Henderson 1975/1997

Hereford 1971/1986

Hurst\* 1969/1993

Irving 1960/ unk

Katy 1983/1990

Killeen 1969/1990

**\*Indicates name change:**

Duncanville to Southwest Dallas County La Porte Pasadena to Southeast Harris County

Hurst to Northeast Tarrant County Plano to Plano/Collin County

Sherman to Sherman-Texoma Sisbee to Hardin County

**\*\* Canyon merged with Amarillo**

Kingsville 1929/2003

Lake Houston 1977/2001

Lamesa 1953/1977

Laredo 1953/2003

Levelland 1955/1986

Longview 1939/1949

Lufkin 1978/1997

Midland 1940/1993

Mineral Wells 1950/ 2000

Monahans 1964/1988

Montrose 1977/1991

Muleshoe 1956/1994

Nederland 1970/1980

New Braunfels 1964/1996

Odessa 1953/1995

Paso del Norte 1979/1992

Pecos 1959/1988

Plainview 1928/1931,1947/2004

Port Arthur 1930/1992

Quitman 1973/1980

Ranger 1941/1990

Rio Grande City/Roma 1958/1963/1963/2002

San Angelo 1929/1997

San Marcos 1928/1993

Sequin 1954/1996

Sherman\* 1949/1996

Sisbee\* 1978/1984

Snyder 1952/1990

Spring Valley 1957/2004

South Liberty County 1971/1991

Sweetwater 1952/1994

Temple 1948/1963

Texarkana 1929/1980

Texas City 1957/ unk

Uvalde 1939/1986

Victoria 1993/1996

Vidor 1978/1996

Waco 1926/ 2001

Wharton 1954/1988

Winkler County 1940/1988

**Awards**

**AAUW Texas Outstanding Member Award**

Each biennium AAUW Texas recognizes a distinguished member for their contributions to AAUW and their community. Recipients have included:

1992 Dr. Nadine Barlow Clear Lake

1994 Lynn Soloman Nacodogches

1996 Virginia Mann McAllen

1998 Helen Oujesky San Antonio

2000 Not Awarded

2002 Betty Anderson Lubbock

2004 Alice Church Houston

2006 Miriam Tormollan Austin

2008 Not Awarded

2010 Margaret A. Carlson West Harris County

2012 Not Awarded

# AAUW Texas Outstanding New Member

In 2004 AAUW Tx initiated an award to recognize new members (fewer than 2 years) who have made innovative and positive contributions which have had a positive and significant impact on a local branch.

2004 Alejandra Lazcana Plano/ Collin County

2006 Joy Vann Lubbock

2008 Not Awarded

2010 Not Awarded

2012 Betty McCutchan West Harris County

Njoki McElroy Dallas

**Three Texas programs have received the Progress in Equity Award:**

*2000: NETWORKS, Collin County Community College (TX)*

*1996: SMU Women's Symposium The Education of Women for Social and Political Leadership, Southern Methodist University (TX)*

*1992: Mary Hufford Hall, Texas Women's University*

**One Texas program received an AAUW Breaking through Barriers Award Honorable Mention. Breaking Through Barriers Awards** showcase the ways in which we are fulfilling the AAUW mission in our communities and around the country.

2011:*High School Sophomore Summits*, AAUW North Harris County (TX)