



# University Woman Texas!



**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.

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## President's Message: Who Are You?

By Ann Berasley

Do you remember reading the book **Are You My Mother?** by P.D. Eastman as a child or more recently to your children or grandchildren? Just a quick recap for those of you who have not memorized this book.

A baby bird is about to hatch, so the mother bird goes off to find a worm for the baby's first meal. While she is gone, the baby bird hatches, falls out of the nest and goes out in search of its mother. Because it doesn't know what its mother looks like, the baby bird asks a number of animals and vehicles "Are you my mother?"

The baby bird gets four types of answers. First – the kitten that just looked and does not say a thing. Second – the cow, who said – "How could I be your mother? I am a cow". Third – the plane that just flew on by. Fourth – the "snort" (a piece of construction equipment) that frightens the baby bird, but puts it back in its nest. The happy ending to the story is that just after the "snort" places it in the nest, the mother bird returns and asks the baby bird if it knows who she is. The baby bird answers "You are my mother."

Many times our nominating committees at the branch, state, and Association level feel like the baby bird. They are looking for the officers needed to take the responsibility for nurturing and leading our organization. Being an officer requires making a commitment of time and energy. Nominating committees, unlike the baby bird, are not going to ask everyone they meet to be an officer. However, like the baby bird, they will have an open mind about who would be a good officer that will serve and represent the organization well. They also are just as persistent as the baby bird and will keep looking until they find just the right person for the job. Nominating committees also need members, who like the mother bird, will come up to them and say I am ready to be an officer.

If you were contacted today and asked to serve at the branch or state level, how would you react?

Like the kitten that sees, but does not hear the baby bird?

Like the cow that offers some information, but doesn't really help?

Like the plane that continues on its own mission without missing a beat?

Like the "snort" that offers the unexpected help?

Like the mother bird that willingly takes on the responsibility?

Please take time to consider whether you are ready to serve as an officer in our organization. Learn more by joining us at one of the two *Job Trainings for Branch Officers* events to be held in May in Houston or the DFW Metroplex, or by attending the Association Convention in St. Louis in June.

If you are ready for a state office, please contact the nominating committee chair, Mary Edwards, or any of the seven district representatives who serve on the nominating committee.

See the Call for Nominations on Page 8.

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### The Sweetness of Victory at the Supreme Court

In 2008, AAUW signed two *amicus curiae*, or "friend of the court," briefs. One was in support of Vicky Crawford in her sexual harassment case, *Crawford v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County*, and another was in support of the Fitzgerald family in their Title IX case, *Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee*.

Both cases were heard before the U.S. Supreme Court in Fall 2008. In January 2009, the court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs in both cases. To learn more, read the blog entry "[Two Good Rulings from the Court](#)" co-written by the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Public Policy staff. These are major victories in the fight against sex discrimination, and AAUW's involvement shows the respect the organization receives by decision makers.

# Two Leadership Training bargains for Texas Branches

**By Patricia Ross, Branch Services Officer**

Leadership training for new officers is essential for all Texas branches. This year the AAUW Texas Board has voted to hold two low-cost training sessions for branch officers in Houston (May 2) and Dallas/Fort Worth (May 30). Good leadership adapts to changing challenges and opportunities.

The one-day program will address proposed changes at the Association level as well as the new programs for branches which have been implemented. There will be counterparts training for specific branch roles.

This training, which will not require an overnight stay for attendees from most branches, and is certainly affordable. Just \$15 per person, and that includes lunch. Carpooling

is suggested. Branch officers from across the state are invited to attend whichever program is most convenient. Officers from out of the host area may request that a member meet their plane and request a host room in a member's home when they register. We are most grateful for those local members who are offering to provide local hospitality.

The first training session, scheduled for Saturday, May 2, will be held at Lone Star College, Greenspoint in Houston. Use the application below for Houston.

The second will be Saturday, May 30, in the Dallas/Fort Worth area: Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, Texas 75244. The Registration Form for Dallas/Fort Worth is on page 3.

**Registration Form**  
**Job Training for Branch Officers**  
**AAUW Texas/Houston Interbranch Council Leadership Training**  
**Lone Star College, Greenspoint Center, Room 306**  
**250 N. Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77060-2000**  
**May 2, 2009                      10:15 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Badge Name</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Home Phone</b>	<b>Work Phone</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>Position in Branch</b>
<b>AAUW Branch</b>	<b>State Office</b>
<b>Please indicate any special needs:</b>	

Please print or type clearly. One person per registration form. **Registration deadline April 25.** Meal availability cannot be guaranteed with late registration. Full payment (\$15 for lunch and materials) must

**Houston area members:**

I would be willing to pick up an officer from an out of town branch at the airport

Bush \_\_\_\_\_ Hobby \_\_\_\_\_

I would be willing to host an out of town branch officer on Friday and/or Saturday night.

**Out of Area members:**

I will need to be picked up at the airport

Bush \_\_\_\_\_ Hobby \_\_\_\_\_ Flight \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

I will need a match with a local host for rooming: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form and your check to:** Marietta Hostak, 12510 Shepherds Ridge Dr. Houston TX 77077  
[mhostak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhostak@sbcglobal.net)                      281-497-5858