



Fall 2008

Volume 63, Issue 1

Inside this Issue

- 1** The Future of AAUW
- 2** Ann Richards Fellowship Approved
Do You Share Your Passion for AAUW?
- 3** Regional Director's Message
Are You Missing Your Publications?
- 4** Board Meeting Highlights
AAUW Texas Adopts Strategic Plan
State Budget Highlights 2008-2009
- 5** Board of Directors 2008-10 Contact Information
- 6** Regional Director's Message (con't)
UWT! Trying Electronic Format

AAUW Texas
 P. O. Box 26827
 Austin, Texas 78755-0827
www.aauwtexas.org

University Woman Texas!

The Future of AAUW

By Ann Berasley

Winston Churchill said two things that I think apply to AAUW today.

- “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.”

As members of AAUW, I believe we all recognize our organization must change. Our challenge is to make sure the change is in the right direction to ensure AAUW remains a viable and thriving organization in the future.

To figure out what that direction is, we must first sit down and listen.

Many AAUW leaders across the country have been working to figure out what changes should be made to take AAUW in the right direction.

Briefings

To help us understand their suggestions, a series of briefings are on the Association website. Please take the time to read these briefings. They will give you the background and reasoning behind some of the proposed changes.

New briefings are added to the site periodically, so check back regularly.

Bylaws

Another important set of documents are the proposed changes to the bylaws. In July, a draft of the proposed bylaws changes was circulated for member feedback. To keep the process moving, member responses were due in August.

Although the initial comment period has closed, these documents are still

available for your review on the AAUW Texas website.

Since August, the bylaws committee has been working to incorporate the feedback it received. Texas was one of the top 10 states in providing comments to the committee.

Based on the feedback, the committee revised the proposals. The revised proposals will be in the Spring *Outlook* and should be on the Association website in January.

After you have read the material, then I hope you will have the courage it takes to stand up and speak.

Speak to your branch and district representatives and other state board members about what you think is the right direction for AAUW.

I encourage you to discuss and debate the proposals. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree, please respect member's opinions, as every member's goal is to find the right direction for AAUW.

Convention

Save the date and start setting aside funds (both branch and personal) to attend the convention in St. Louis. If you cannot attend, consider supporting other branch members financially.

Notice that the convention runs from roughly noon Friday to noon Sunday – much shorter than in the past.

For those attending the convention, bylaws briefing meetings are included on the schedule to provide the delegates with even more information and to answer questions.

Texas is a large state with many branches and active members. Our voices are critical in shaping the AAUW of the future.

I hope to see you in St Louis!

Ann Richards Fellowship Approved

By Anita Knight

The American Fellowships program, the oldest and largest of the AAUW Educational Foundation's fellowship and grant programs, dates from 1888 when Vassar graduate Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, received \$350 to pursue a graduate degree in education at the University of Michigan.

For 2008-2009, more than 1,100 eligible women applied for American Fellowships. However, the almost \$2 million awarded provided fellowships to only 97 women.

The AAUW Educational Foundation Board approved Texas' request to establish the Ann Richards American Fellowship. The fellowship has 15 years to reach the American Fellowship level of \$200,000.

When the Ann Richards American Fellowship is completed, it too will become part of the long history of women supporting women to achieve their academic and professional goals.

Branches with EF funds not directed to complete a fellowship, or research and projects grants, can direct those funds to the Ann Richards American Fellowship.

Branch Educational Foundation Vice Presidents will be receiving the information for how to direct funds to this new fellowship.

Do You Share Your Passion for AAUW?

By Pris Mowinkle

Many AAUW Texas members suffered major economic setbacks during the past two weeks. Today, a friend spent most of the day with her financial planner trying to pick up the pieces of what she had considered a secure retirement.

An email arrived from an AAUW baby boomer. She was getting her resume ready in search of a job to replace the one that she thought she would retire from in a few years.

Last week a student affiliate came to me and said, "Mo, I won't be able to continue next semester as I have been told that my work hours will be cut and that financial aid will not be available."

Yet, in the middle of this crisis, you read this message from me,

"Members you must get out and recruit members! Branches, you must retain the members you have!"

This is the time that current and potential members need the support of your branch. Women's equity may suffer in this environment as the competition for jobs and credit soar.

How can we market our mission to potential and current members when we are facing such an economic crisis?

Passionately live our mission, "AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research."

Passionately share our value, "By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

Passionately inform potential members that we have a very strong voice in government and actively lobby policy-makers on critical women's issues.

We also provide a powerful network of friends, advocates, and professional contacts both within branches and online. This is an organization of activists and during this type of economic environment; we need each other to promote the well-being of women.

Passionately emphasize that AAUW provides the lifelong learning necessary for our members to develop both professionally and personally.

Branch programming improves the quality of life and provides opportunities to develop skills and knowledge that will aid in career decisions.

How can we ask members who are suffering in this economic downturn to pay the dues for membership?

If a branch integrates membership development into everything that they do as a branch and if you intertwine membership with programming then you will provide the means to offer new members a lower dues rate through the **Shape the Future** Membership Campaign.

By promoting your program or event in the community, through media, event posters, community calendars, or collaborative partnership announcements you can then offer half-price memberships to individuals who **join at the event**.

The following rules apply:

Discounts are restricted to new or lapsed members (those who have not been members for at least two years). This discount applies to Association dues only, reducing the cost from \$49 to \$24.50.

You must use the Shape the Future guest/referral list so that staff can capture all the necessary information and the list **must** be turned into Association within two weeks of the event. You can download this form from the website.

Each branch will receive one free membership for every two members recruited on the spot.

A new member can choose to join a branch, or join as a member-at-large or as a MAL and state member. Even if they join only the Association, the branch still receives credit for the free membership.

There is a maximum of three free memberships each fiscal year. Use the free memberships to help those members or potential members who may be struggling through this crisis.

A new program provides free student-affiliate memberships to

undergraduate students enrolled in a college or university that is a C/U partner. Check with your branch membership VP or state membership VP if you need more information concerning this program.

Every member of AAUW is a member of the branch's membership team. When asked why they joined most members respond, "Because I was invited by a friend." Share your passion for AAUW by calling a friend or even an acquaintance and tell them about AAUW.

Regional Director's Message

By Shirley Breeze, SWC

Some really exciting things are happening with AAUW this fall and winter and moving into spring.

Hopefully, you have read the proposed bylaws, which will be voted on in St. Louis. The final product will appear in *Outlook* and be ready for all attendees to react to at the convention.

Use our new value promise in your newsletters and on your promotional material:

As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Please take advantage of the briefings prepared by Association staff. Take them to your branch meetings; give them to prospective members. They are a wonderful review of our policies and activities. Watch for new titles online on an on-going basis. Here are the current titles:

- #1 Legal Advocacy Fund
- #2 Why has the Logo Changed?
- #3 Value Promise
- #4 Community: A Shared Understanding of Membership
- #5 Breaking Through Barriers AAUW's Unifying Focus
- #6 Branch Tax Status After Restructuring

- #7 Program in a Box: New tool for Branch Programming Launched
- #8 Value of Branches to AAUW
- #9 AAUW Membership Pilot Program
- #10 Member Showcase
- #11 AAUW Joint Boards Meeting, October 2008

Program in a Box is available on the web site and contains extensive program ideas for branch programming. Your branch would benefit from these great resources.

Good News: The National Science Foundation Grant for our National Girls Collaborative Project has been renewed to begin January 1, 2009.

The **Every Member Poll** results found that members think highly of AAUW. Seventy-six percent were either satisfied or very satisfied. Eighty-four percent agree or strongly agree with the statement, "AAUW provides an articulate and respected voice on women's issues." Sixty-seven percent agree or strongly agree that AAUW effectively addresses all aspects of equity for today's women.

If you are not a subscriber to **Washington Update**, get your name on the list. It is a free e-mail update.

Please note: the **AAUW Helpline** has a new name: Connect2AAUW and a new e-mail, connect@aauw.org.

Membership VPs should have received a resource packet in the last few weeks. If not, immediately contact the Association Membership Office.

Adelante! This book of the month list will continue in 2009-10.

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders will again be in June 2009. Make plans now to support a student to attend this life-changing event.

Plan to attend the 2009 AAUW Convention in St. Louis, June 26-28. St. Louis is easily accessible from anywhere in our region. Exciting things will be happening!!!

Information in the form of a letter will be available in January concerning

convention. Share this information in newsletters.

If you would like to volunteer to work at convention, alert Julie Triplett at julietrip@charter.net or Pat Shores at apatriciashores@charter.net.

Member Showcase. AAUW has initiated a new feature on its web site. This 18-month calendar will list activities across the country related to AAUW. Each branch should appoint a calendar administrator to post information.

2009-10 Dues. Dues will continue at the \$49 rate.

(Continued on back page)

Are You Missing Your Publications?

Association is sending more and more information to branch leaders and members electronically.

Keep your member information up-to-date will help ensure you receive your paper publications and email communications.

Here's all it takes to update your information online:

Type www.aauw.org in to your web browser.

Click on "member center."

Click on "update member record" on the left side under "RELATED LINKS OF INTEREST."

Type in the information requested.

Click on "send form."

Board Meeting Highlights

By Dusky Wells

The 2008-2010 AAUW Texas Board of Directors held its first meeting of the biennium in Austin on July 18-20, 2008. Between meetings, the board conducts business by email.

The Board of Directors voted:

- To adopt the strategic plan for 2008-2010.
- To adopt a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
- To apply to the Foundation to start a new American Fellowship in the name of Ann Richards.
- To reduce the number of printed issues of the UWT! and to use electronic distribution for the remaining issues.
- To modify who can be appointed to serve as nominating committee chair to allow the president to appoint a chair.

AAUW Texas Adopts Strategic Plan

The AAUW Texas Board of Directors began work on the strategic plan at the July Board meeting and refined the plan before final adoption via email in October.

Goal 1: Increase visibility of AAUW's mission and issues

AAUW Texas will increase the visibility of AAUW's mission and issues by:

- 1.1 Hosting a state convention in April 2010 to educate attendees on AAUW's mission, programs, and issues.
- 1.2 Educating our members regarding AAUW's programs that can be implemented at the branch or inter-branch level and how to use these programs to increase visibility.

1.3 Increase visibility of AAUW Texas' public policy with its members, elected officials, and the public through advocacy and education.

1.4 Educating our members on the newest Educational Foundation research and how to use this research to increase visibility.

1.5 Collecting information and sufficient funds to start an Educational Foundation, American fellowship in the name of former Texas Governor, Ann Richards.

1.6 Educating our members regarding the changing role of the Legal Advocacy Fund and the continued need for financial support.

1.7 Educating ourselves and our members regarding Leadership and Training Institute.

Goal 2: Communicate effectively

AAUW Texas will communicate effectively by:

2.1 Communicating with branch counterparts using *the Link* at least quarterly, but more frequently as needed.

2.2 Communicating with branch members and state MALs using a concise and focused every-member publication (*UWT!*).

2.3 Communicating with branch members, state MAL's, and the public using the AAUW Texas website.

2.4 Communicating with Association regarding routine business and bylaws changes.

Goal 3: Expand and diversify membership

AAUW Texas will expand and diversify membership by:

3.1 Highlighting programs or structures in branches that successfully expand membership.

3.2 Continuing to actively support all branches, especially the development of newly formed branches and those working to on revitalization.

3.3 Educating ourselves, branches, and state MALs on how supporting LTI can impact membership.

3.4 Developing strategies to target diverse members, through branch and state recruitment efforts.

Goal 4: Identify, develop and provide opportunities for leaders

AAUW Texas will identify, develop and provide opportunities for leaders by:

4.1 Providing leadership opportunities for AAUW Texas members.

4.2 Sponsoring a leadership conference in July 2009.

4.3 Creating a Student Advisory Council.

4.4 Educating members about alternative branch structures at the leadership conference in July 2009 and/or state convention in April 2010.

4.5 Identifying and recognizing branch projects, programs, or processes that develop and/or nurture leaders.

State Budget Highlights 2008-2009

By Margaret Bentley

The AAUW Texas board adopted a balanced budget for 2008-2009 fiscal year in July 2008.

INCOME

State Dues	\$22,350
Total Income	\$22,350

EXPENSES

Communications	\$2,700
Conventions	\$2,450
Executive	\$13,800
<i>(Includes board Meeting & travel costs)</i>	
Membership	\$2,750
Program	\$650
Total Expenses	\$22,350

Board of Directors Contact Information 2008—2010

PRESIDENT

Ann Berasley 512-689-7269
11712 Drayton Dr.
Austin, Texas 78758
ann.berasley@gmail.com

CENTRAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Newell 512-345-1686
5703 Lakemoore Dr.
Austin, Texas 78731
enewell@io.com

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Maria Viera-Williams 214-341-5880
P.O. Box 551328
Dallas, Texas 75355
vierawilliams@sbcglobal.net

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

Celina Torres Fennell 325-698-2421
51 Pinehust
Abilene, TX 79606
celinafennell@suddenlink.net

WEST DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

Jeanie Best 325-548-2446
10914 CR 307
Abilene, Texas 79601
lazyb79601@yahoo.com

BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Pam Wolfe 512-388-5433
3601 Eagles Nest
Round Rock, Texas 78665
piwolfe@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT

Priscilla Mowinkel 972-247-8781
3336 Dorado Beach
Farmers Branch, Texas 75234
pamowinkel@tx.rr.com

SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Marietta Hostak 281-497-5858
12510 Shepherds Ridge Dr.
Houston, Texas 77077
mhostak@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Open

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

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION VP

Anita Knight 512-329-8575
529 Buckeye Tr.
Austin, Texas 78746
dbasknight@aol.com

Melba Zaremba 956-648-7577
1421 S. 16th Ave.
Edinburg, Texas 78539
mmzaremba@yahoo.com

Mynda Holman McGuire 210-459-2819
20015 Encino Royale,
San Antonio, TX 78259
armynda@sbcglobal.net

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND VP

Kathy Anthon 817-251-1080
2440 Brittany Ln.
Grapevine, Texas 76051
kathy@anthons.com

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Janet Peavler 972-318-0160
430 Remington Dr.
Highland Village, Texas 75077
jpeavler2@tx.rr.com

Margo Johnson 281-499-3327
3314 Palm Desert Lane
Missouri City, Texas 77459
margohi@aol.com

SECRETARY

Dusky Wells 325-675-5904
3900 N 9th
Abilene, Texas 79603
wellsabilene@clearwire.net

Margie Poole 817-226-2256
1807 Carriage House Circle #3103
Arlington, Texas 76011
Margiep4762@tx.rr.com

FINANCE OFFICER

Margaret Bentley 972-572-0449
1420 Daventry Dr.
DeSoto, Texas 75115
desotom@tx.rr.com

Elaine Wells 903-561-8703
7809 Abbey Ct.
Tyler, Texas 75703
gramcentral@sbcglobal.net

BRANCH SERVICES OFFICER

Patricia Ross 281-491-5139
4218 St. Ives
Sugarland, Texas 77479
paross@aol.com

SWC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Shirley Breeze 314-831-5359
138 Kings Drive
St. Louis County, Missouri 63034
sbreeze@mindspring.com

2009 AAUW National Convention

Breaking through Barriers

June 26-28, 2009
St. Louis



(Continued from page 3)

AAUW received consultant status with the UN. This is a great "feather in our cap" and allows us to be even more visible and effective in our work at the UN and in international affairs. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is still an important resolution. The Senate must approve it.

Foreign Relations Committee. Let's keep up the pressure to get it passed. The United States is among about eight countries that have not ratified. Others include such stellar countries as Iran, Qatar, Tonga, Sudan, and Somalia!

Pay Equity: Please call both of your federal senators and ask them to vote for SB1843, the Senate version of the Lilly Ledbetter Act.

Pilot Projects. Two completely voluntary projects will be initiated in the next few months. One is the national dues collection project only for those who wish to send their membership this way. The other is a local scholarship clearinghouse. Again, BOTH OF THESE ARE VOLUNTARY.

UWT! Trying Electronic Format

This biennium we are trying a mix of paper and electronic editions of *UWT!* While all editions are posted on the website, only three of the six issues this biennium will be printed.

When the *UWT!* is posted, all members who have registered their email address will receive an email notifying them that the newsletter is available.

To register your email address, go to www.aauwtexas.org.

Near the top is a box that reads "NEW! Sign up HERE for AAUW Texas e-mail."

Click on Sign up HERE. Fill in the information and click "submit".

Look for the first electronic version in January 2009!

