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University Women Texas

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Our Mission

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.



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The end of summer and beginning of fall have been very busy, exciting and empowering for AAUW Texas. During our first Board Meeting in July, we began outlining the AAUW Texas Strategic Plan for 2014-16. Priority: Ride the Wave and continue to build the Enthusiasm & Excitement among our AAUW Texas Branches and members. For starters, AAUW Texas received two major grants from AAUW National:

The continuation of our State Organizer position, now under the AAUW Membership Department and renamed "**AAUW Texas Field Representative**". We have **Melodia Gutierrez** for another year. She retains the responsibility of Field Representative for three states: Texas, Louisiana & Oklahoma; however, Texas will be her main focus. With Melodia's assistance, your board will be able to become more visible within Districts.



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The Lone Star Low-Down is a new special edition of University Woman Texas. It is designed to detail one specific topic or program and be published more frequently. The first issue of **Lone Star Low-Down, GOTV** featured the Public Policy Impact Grant received by AAUW Texas. Our next special issue will feature the newly formed State S.T.E.M. Task Force and ways

The receipt of a "Public Policy Impact Grant for 2014-15". You should have already received a **"Lone Star Low-Down"** special edition of **UWT** detailing the purpose and AAUW Texas plans for the implementation of the \$1,000.00 grant. See more at <http://aauw-tx.aauw.net>

With these two grants, AAUW Texas will begin building connections with branches and increasing our recognition within the state as a *"Powerful Network Advocating for Women"*. Together, this goal is easily attainable; separately, it has been an overwhelming task for some.

AAUW Texas is here to help **your Branch** become a **Powerful Network for Women** within your community. Corpus Christi has led the way in requesting a State visit with their officers. Next on the list, Stephenville Branch and Tarleton State University...Call on us...We are here for YOU!



From your AAUW Texas State Field Representative

As many of you may know, I've been your "boots on the ground" for over a year now. As I embark on my second year of work alongside AAUW Texas leaders, my focus has shifted from policy and advocacy, to membership and development. While policy advocacy will continue to play a key role in our efforts for the next year, I am thrilled to work with Presidents and MVPs to grow our branches to strengthen AAUW's power in Texas.

Thus far, in my new role, AAUW Texas State Board Members and I have worked with branches in Corpus Christi, DFW Area, Lubbock and San Antonio. My approach to supporting branches is four-fold. First, I make arrangements for an AAUW Advocacy Table at a local community event, or at an AAUW College/University partner. Next, I attend an ongoing branch function, in order to get to know and learn from our amazing AAUW leadership. Also, I host local networking/mix and mingle type events, like **Cocktails and Convo**s,

your branch can become involved in recognizing Computer Science Week in Dec. Watch for it in late Oct. / early Nov. and plan a 'little something EXTRA' during that week. Let's unite under the AAUW Texas State Umbrella and Support 'STEM 4 Texas Girls'.



Carol Leslie King, Northeast Tarrant County Branch



The AAUW Northeast Tarrant County Branch mourns the loss of **Carol Leslie King**, 67, who died peacefully Wednesday, July 30, 2014. A native of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Carol was born October 15, 1946, to Leslie and Wanda Totten Juden.

Carol spent a career in nutritional food services and was a member of AAUW NETC Branch where she served as branch president from 1976-1978. She was an avid fan of the Texas Tech Red Raiders and a soccer mom who loved any team her son coached. She enjoyed traveling, painting, being with her grandchildren, family and friends. We will

as an opportunity to invite national members to join a local branch, or non-members to take the first step in empowering women and girls by joining AAUW. Lastly, we host group trainings on advocacy, membership development, outreach, and social media. This approach, without fail, results in “build-up” activism. Not only do I learn best practices from around Texas to share with other branches, but we also further the presence and outreach of AAUW in our communities. We are committed to organizing and interconnecting our 37 branches, so that we can further our impact in Texas.

An old African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” and we are certainly diligent in our work to “go together” for the remainder of 2014 and into 2015 so that we drive results in Texas for the benefit of women and girls. By going together, AAUW Texas is poised to become the premiere women’s organization in our state and a nationwide leader in all things AAUW.

Feel free to contact me for a visit or to brag about your branch.

Melodia Gutierrez
AAUW Texas, Field Representative
Phone: 202.203.8353
Email: gutierrezm@aauw.org



[Mark Hopkins](#), AAUW Chief Strategy Officer, came to North Texas in September for a Town Hall Meeting and a Texas State Board Meeting. He shared with us that AAUW States and Branches have done an amazing job of raising restricted funds for Education, Legal Advocacy, and Public Policy. AAUW is set to award scholarships, grants, and fellowships for a long time. Now is the time for a reassessment of AAUW needs and how we can become more flexible in the future with 'unrestricted funding' in order to support any of AAUW's programmatic work with the greatest needs.

AAUW has recently purchased the very successful [Start Smart and](#)

especially miss her wonderful sense of humor and robust laugh.

**Administrative Judge
Katie Duderstadt,
San Antonio Branch**



Katie Duderstadt, 71, was a remarkable woman and gracious lady who always wanted to know about you instead of talking about herself. She graduated from Trinity University with a BS in Business Administration and became a case worker in a very disadvantaged neighborhood in Houston. After a few years, she went to work for the Department of the Army managing service clubs in South Korea and West Germany. Katie then went back to school and got a second degree (BS in Administration of Justice) before joining the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. While working fulltime, she made the decision to attend law school at night. Katie spent her entire law career working for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, most recently as an Administrative Judge.

Katie's compassion for others was most evident when she presided over discrimination cases before the EEOC,

Work \$mart programs. Funding for that purchase came from AAUW Funds which are unrestricted and can be used to support any of AAUW's programmatic work. There is a need NOW for AAUW to offer States and Branches more grants for S.T.E.M. programs, AAUW Field Representatives to organize and assist with membership, College/University partnerships, Marketing and Branding and other areas of programming. AAUW needs to 'expand our horizons' in order to grow, but that growth is hindered by limited unrestricted funding.

Additionally, we need to complete the **Ann Richards American Fellowship Fund**. As of August 31, we have raised \$100,254.12 (\$9,096.54 this year). We have until 2023 to complete this \$200,000 Fund. With nine years remaining, we need to raise more than \$10,000 each year. Please make Ann Richards Fund (4324) your Top Fund in your fundraising efforts. Together, we can do this!



*Martha Matthews
AAUW Texas, State AAUW Funds VP*



Program Round-up
with Jan Domaracki
AAUW Texas, State Program VP

The Fall **AAUW North Texas Interbranch** meeting was held on Saturday, October 4th, in conjunction with the **AAUW Northeast Tarrant**



County branch meeting at Martin Methodist Church in Bedford, Texas. The speaker for the joint meeting was **Mr. Vic Suhm**, Executive Director of the Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition. Mr. Suhm informed the group about a proposed Texas constitutional amendment, Proposition 1, which voters will be asked to approve at the upcoming November 4th election. Proposition 1 will allow for more money to be directed to the maintenance and improvement of the Texas highway system but specifically excludes any money for tollways.

always patiently listening to the people's concerns and treating the attorneys with respect. In honor of Katye, her friends and co-workers at the EEOC have started a local AAUW San Antonio scholarship in her memory. Donations are being accepted for the scholarship.

**Betty Jean McMillin,
Harlingen Branch**



Betty Jean McMillin, 80, passed away Thursday, June 19, 2014 at Valley Baptist Medical Center. Betty was born March 21, 1934 in Galveston, TX to William Pete Saenz and Edith Ewy. She earned a Bachelor of Education and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Pan American University. She worked for the Harlingen Independent School District for many years and later with the San Benito CISD.

Betty was active with the Zonta Club, American Association of University of Women, Harlingen Retired Teachers, Alpha Delta Kappa and the Lions Club (Lioness). She also had been a member of St. Alban's Episcopal Church since 1972. Betty is survived by her son, William McMillin and daughter-in-law, Debora McMillin.

The joint meeting also celebrated the 45th anniversary of the AAUW Northeast Tarrant County branch with a special (and very delicious) cake and recognition of branch Founding Member, **Georgia Kidwell**. Pictured with the cake are, left to right, **Kidwell, Lynn Doyle**, Northeast Tarrant President and **Gloria Long**, Interbranch President.

The next AAUW North Texas Interbranch meeting will be on Saturday March 7, 2015 in conjunction with a **Plano/Collin County Branch** meeting and will feature a "How to Lobby Workshop" by **Melodia Gutierrez**, AAUW Regional Field Representative.

Computer Science Education Week

CALL TO ACTION!

1. Support Computer Science Education Week
2. Sign the petition
3. Support a school or girl

Our **AAUW Texas STEM Task Force** would love to connect with members who are engaged with education. Task Force members, Karen North and Tricia Berry met at the University of Texas to brainstorm scaling equitable access to computer science education with coordinators of [Project Engage](#), [Texas Girls Collaborative Project](#), [Code.org](#) affiliates, [Texas Computer Education Association](#) and [The Texas Regional Collaborative](#). We would love for you to be a part by supporting **Computer Science Education Week December 8-13, 2014**.

No one questions the need for critical thinking, creative thinking and college and career readiness skills. Half of future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) jobs are in Computer Science. Yet, very few girls are exposed to the computer sciences. Coding is an easy free tool that can build the 21st century mindset that our economy needs. [Google](#) is investing \$50 Million to attract girls to CS. [Code.org](#) has developed lessons for K-5 children and non-readers. But, we need your help!

Please go to the [Computer Science Education Week website](#) to **sign the petition** supporting that every student in every



Have you visited the [AAUW Texas Facebook Page](#) and clicked on "Like?"

We are setting a goal of 600 "Likes" by the end of October. That's only 35 more followers! While you're at it, look for other AAUW TX Branch Facebook sites and "Like" them as well. Great way to use social media & stay connected.



AAUW TX (@AAUWTx) is on Twitter, how about your Branch?

This is another good way to follow each other and learn about meetings, events, issues, start a conversation. Look for Social Media Tips you can use to increase your Branch outreach in upcoming issues of UWT.

Oh, by the way, if your branch is wanting to become more Social Media savvy, contact AAUW TX. We'll be glad to present a training, help set up Facebook & Twitter accounts. Contact our Branch Services Chair, [Margie Poole](#) to schedule a visit. margiepoole11@yahoo.com

Does your branch have a designated STEM officer?

Please email [Karen Jean North](#) at knorth@me.com with contact information & update your Branch Officer List at www.aauw.org, where

school should have the opportunity to learn computer science. Teachers need our help! I am dreaming every AAUW branch in Texas would support one school, and every AAUW member would support one girl. See codetexas.edublogs.org for more ideas or contact Karen at knorth@wt.net. And, challenge yourself by doing the puzzles at code.org/educate/k5.

IT is good for your brain, too!!



AAUW Northeast Tarrant County Branch

Northeast Tarrant County AAUW members registering voters at Tarrant County Community College, Northeast Campus, on National Voter Registration Day.



Gloria Long, Member of Northeast Tarrant County Branch, registered students and teachers at Brewer High School on September 23, 2014.



Linda Adams, Georgia Kidwell, and Ginny Phoenix



AAUW Tarrant County Branch, North District

they now have a designated STEM Officer title.



See You in San Diego!

Registration is now open for the [2015 AAUW National Convention](#)! Will you be the first to join the wave headed to sunny California next June? [Register today](#) to take advantage of Best Value rates.



Attention AAUW members!

It's your AAUW, so make your voice heard! Run for AAUW national office, comment on bylaws amendments (or propose your own!), and weigh in on our Public Policy Program. [Visit the AAUW election page](#) to get started!





Tarrant County Branch held a voter registration drive on September 29th and 30th at the **Tarrant County College (TCC)-Trinity River Campus**. The college provided a table close to

the Student Life Center and their café and coffee shop, a location with high student, faculty and staff traffic. Radio Shack shares space with the college, and it is likely that their employees added to the diverse mix of individuals.

A total of 42 new voter applications were turned in and several change of address applications. On Tuesday, efforts were greatly enhanced by the participation of an on-campus student group, whose members comfortably approached students their own age and encouraged them to register to vote at the Tarrant County Branch table. There were also several political science professors who were using these drives as a “teaching moment”, and stressing the importance of exercising one’s right and responsibility to vote.

As part of the branch’s community service interest group, about 12 had taken the class to become deputy voter registrars, and six were able to help with this two-day drive. The Trinity River Campus is truly a beautiful and welcoming environment for students and all were energized by this experience and are ready to do it again in the future. TCC’s contact was very helpful and the branch is considering trying to coordinate future drives with the same student group, if possible.

AAUW Tarrant County Branch, North District



All three (3) candidates for the U.S. Representative, District 12 race accepted an invitation to participate in a ‘Candidate Forum’ sponsored by the [League of Women](#)

[Voters® of Tarrant County](#) on the evening of Tuesday, October 14 at the Westside Unitarian Universalist Church, 901 Page Street,

Fort Worth, 76110.

The Forum, which began at 7:00 pm, opened with 3 minute comments from each candidate. Questions were posed by moderator, most of which had been from written questions



submitted that night by attendees. This 2014 Midterm Candidate Forum was great exposure for AAUW too, as four AAUW Tarrant County Branch members were volunteers helping during this event attended by over 100 area residents. Pictured above are AAUW Tarrant County Branch members: **Dawn Ellison, Peggy Hendon, Barbara Cager.**



Corpus Christi President **Agnes Hamilton**, smiling with our newest student affiliate - **Del Mar College** - at the AAUW College University Partner Tabling Event in September.



Celebrating the new partnership with Del Mar students.



We are proud of member, attorney and mother, **Michele Villareal-Kuchta**, running for District Court Judge in Nueces County!



AAUW Texas & AAUW San Antonio hosted a round table discussion on women in the 21st century work force on the campus of AAUW College/Univ. Partner, **San Antonio College**. Participants included **Equal Justice Center**, **MALDEF**, community members, **U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez** and **Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer**.



San Antonio Women's Equality Day event, "Can We Talk?", a collaboration of over 60 San Antonio Women's Organizations of which AAUW San Antonio is an active member.



Signing up e-student affiliates at **San Antonio College** are Branch President **Pat Sanford** and member **Diantha Perelli**.



Over 200 girls and women joined Girls Inc. of Tarrant County in celebrating the **Day of the Girl** on October 10th with a **March on Main Street** in Downtown Fort Worth and a proclamation for the day read aloud on the courthouse steps by **Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price**. The reading of the proclamation was followed by a pep rally and networking event in Sundance Square. Pictured left is **Mayor Betsy Price** and Tarrant County member **Barbara Cager**.



20 Tarrant County AAUW members marched and contributed donations. They received the **Day of the Girl March award for Best Community Support** with the most team members attending.





The Plano/Collin County Branch participated in a **White Ribbon Rally** hosted by the **Collin County Council on Family Violence** on October 2nd at **Collin College, Preston Ridge Campus**. Educator, author and internationally acclaimed lecturer, **Jackson Katz**, inspired men to stand against violence and abuse in all its forms. Former NBA Coach **Del Harris** led the men of Collin County in the White Ribbon Pledge.

Branch Programs Co-Chair **Betty McClure** and Branch President **Kay Zilliox** handed out goody bags and allowed participants to take photos with their AAUW-themed frame.

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