

This is a publication of AAUW Texas. Please forward to others who might be interested in our organization and community efforts.

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University Woman Texas

Volume 67 | Issue 1 | Fall 2015

Our Mission

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



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Forward



Welcome to the 2015-2016 year! Our State theme this year is **“Step into Action with AAUW.”** Opportunities for branches to **“Step into Action with AAUW”** abound.



I realize that a great number of branch boards met in the late spring and early summer to determine programming and set goals for 2015-2016. More times than not, AAUW National does not operate on our time schedule, they set their own and trust that states and branches are flexible enough to incorporate National's initiatives into our state and individual yearly plans.



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One such initiative is **State and Branch Membership and Retention Goals**. Both you and your branch Membership V.P. should have received a detailed letter from our AAUW Texas State Membership Vice President, **Ginny Phoenix**, outlining individual branch membership goals.

Many Texas branches began this year in August with successful Membership Drives that met or are well on their way to meeting these suggested membership and retention goals. Membership into AAUW at the national, state and branch level is on-going. It is an open ended goal, and your state board is seeking your willingness to go that extra mile by striving to achieve your new member and returning member retention goal.

Another initiative and opportunity to “**Step into Action with AAUW**” during the coming year is your branch’s willingness to assist AAUW Texas in our newly acquired **2015-2016 AAUW National Impact Grant** of \$1,000.00 to ‘impact’ the adopted policies of AAUW.



The focus of this state grant is to continue raising awareness of women’s issues in Texas and establish AAUW Texas as a viable organization and advocate of positively affecting the lives of women and families. **Voter Rights, Equal Pay, Affordable Quality Child Care, Paid Family & Medical Leave, Quality Public Schools with Adequate Funding, Freedom from Sexual Harassment & Assault on College/University campuses...**these are long standing policies of AAUW. These policies affect women, girls and families in our state and communities. Your State Board and State Public Policy Committee realize AAUW Public Policy advocacy may not be every branch’s or member’s priority, however, we are asking that you select one policy you can get behind. [Violence Against Women](#), [Title IX Compliance](#), and [Voter Registration & Education](#) should be policies we can all rally behind.

“**Step into Action with AAUW**” by running for a position of the AAUW Texas State Board. The Nomination Committee is accepting nominations **NOW**. Do you



Eileen Lynch, 87, died September 6 of natural causes at her Addison, Texas home. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas. Eileen was known for innovation during her nearly 40 years teaching political science in the Dallas County Community College District. At Eastfield College, she was a pioneer in creating the tele-course series for Government courses that integrated photos, interviews and live videos. She later transferred to Brookhaven College where she introduced an interdisciplinary studies program called Coordinated Studies. Eileen was a member of AAUW Farmers Branch-Carrollton since 1997. See more about Eileen’s life [here](#).



Shirley Elaine Newman Felcman, 87, passed away



know someone in your branch who would be willing to serve in a state leadership capacity?

Nominate them. Nomination Packets with instructions and forms are attached and may also be found online at our AAUW Texas state website.: www.aauw-tx.aauw.net

“Step into Action with AAUW” by attending the **47th AAUW Texas Biennial State Convention**, April 29 – May 1, 2016. Our 47th State Convention will be held in San Antonio, hosted by AAUW San Antonio Branch.



“Step into Action with AAUW” by helping AAUW Texas achieve our goal of completing our **\$200,000.00 AAUW American Fellowship Grant** in honor of **Governor Ann Richards**.



Currently, you have donated over \$100,000.00 to this Fellowship since it's initiation in 2010. We're halfway there!!! Members of the AAUW Texas State Board have initiated a 2015-2016 Ann Richards AAUW American Fellowship Grant Funding Drive. A goal of raising \$20,000.00 by April 2016 has been set. This is a goal that can be reached. If every AAUW Texas member gave \$10.00 to \$15.00.



peacefully on October 12, 2015 after battling heart and lung disease for several years. She grew up in San Antonio, graduated from Brackenridge High School, and earned an Associate of Arts Degree from San Antonio Junior College. Shirley was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Austin, May 30, 1949. Shortly after graduation from UT, Shirley joined AAUW, of which she was a member for over 50 years, most recently a member of the Houston branch. See more about Shirley's life [here](#).



STEP INTO ACTION WITH AAUW!

The **47th AAUW Texas Biennial State Convention** will be held at the Norris Center in San Antonio April 29 - May 1.

Please mark this on your calendars and keep it in mind as your branch does its planning for next year.



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

AAUW Texas continues to make considerable strides on the road to women's equality. From launching new branches, to hosting dynamic programs that demonstrate AAUW values, under the direction of our fierce state board, we are advancing the empowerment of women and girls in our great state.

As we enter into fall and winter, please note a few things that will support our efforts to build a stronger AAUW Texas that advances our mission of empowering women through education, research, advocacy and philanthropy.

The largest learning event in history, [Computer Science Education Week](#), is December 7 – 13, 2015. Please celebrate this important occasion by asking your local Mayor or City Council to officially declare Computer Science Education Week with a proclamation in your city!

Plan ahead for [Equal Pay Day 2016](#)! Politicians, stars, leaders and advocates are raising their voices calling for pay equity. Join the call for equal pay for women! By working together, it is possible to see equal pay in our life time. Have you scheduled an Equal Pay Day event or program for your local community? From writing letters to the editor, meeting for drinks, to tabling at your local college, recognizing equal pay day is critical to narrowing the wage gap that exists for women. Check out all of AAUW's how-to advocacy ideas [here](#).

As your branch hosts events for the remainder of the year, remember to add a membership recruitment component to your branch programs and events, through AAUW's [Shape the Future](#) program. Shape the Future allows new members to receive half off of their national dues! Remember, we can only be as strong as our membership. To truly advance our mission we rely on our vigorous membership. Invite the strong women in your life to join AAUW's powerful network that spans the globe, and the Lone Star State.

The giving season is coming near! Keep AAUW and AAUW Texas in your thoughts, and our mission, this season. AAUW Texas is calling each branch member to give a \$10.00 donation to the [Ann Richards Fellowship Fund](#). As you give to AAUW please give to the **AAUW Fund**. AAUW's programs like [Start Smart](#), [Elect Her](#) and [Research](#) are supported by this fund. In order to expand these programs to fit the needs of our communities it is vital to contribute to this fund.

Please "Like" our Facebook page and share it with your friends. While you're at it, look for other AAUW Texas branch Facebook sites and "Like" them as well. Great way to use social media & stay connected.



AAUW Texas (@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 Texas. 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 they now have a designated STEM Officer title.



**Share Your Successes
in *Lead On***

Do you have a story about an

If you or your branch would like assistance with membership recruitment, funds education, College/University outreach, policy advocacy or to host one of our interactive workshops, please contact your state leadership or Regional Field Representative, we are willing to travel to you!

Melodía Gutiérrez

AAUW Texas, Field Representative

Phone: 202.203.8353

Email: gutierrezm@aauw.org

TechSavvy

by AAUW

IS COMING TO TEXAS!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, LUBBOCK CAMPUS

Tech Savvy is a one-day STEM Conference designed for girls 6th through 9th grade and their parents. The program's purpose is to help young girls discover realistic STEM careers and pathways to education, and equip parents to be an encouraging and reinforcing part of the process.

In partnership with Texas Tech University's STEM Center for Outreach, Research and Education (STEM-CORE). AAUW Texas & the AAUW Abilene, Amarillo, and Lubbock branches are excited to host the first **Tech Savvy** Conference in Texas! Your help is needed to recruit students, parents and volunteers!

If you are interested, please visit our website for more information:

www.stem.ttu.edu/techsavvy



If your branch or C/U Partner is interested in bringing Tech Savvy to your area of Texas, please visit AAUW's website to explore more details: <http://www.aauw.org>

innovative program you are running? How about a successful recruitment effort or steps you have taken toward more diversity and inclusion? These are just some of the types of stories we love to share in *Lead On*.

Please send an e-mail to memberleaders@aauw.org for a chance to be featured!

Lisa Maatz Visits North Texas



On Wednesday, September 23, AAUW Texas and North Texas

Interbranch welcomed **Lisa Maatz**, AAUW National VP of Government Relations, to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Lisa spoke to AAUW North Texas members and guests at the Bedford Library. Lisa is AAUW's top public policy advisor, strategist, head of our organization's lobby corps and a consultant on women's issues for many groups. She often testifies before congressional committees.

Lisa spoke and took questions for almost two hours on AAUW issues, covering the importance of voting and being engaged in local politics, equal pay for women, sexual harassment on college campuses, and women's health. AAUW members from throughout the metroplex took



Congratulations, Alyssa Michalke!

AAUW Texas, members of the AAUW TAMU Student Affiliate Chapter & members of the newly re-organized AAUW Bryan-College Station branch joined the AGGIE Women in celebrating Texas A&M's 1st Female Corps Commander.

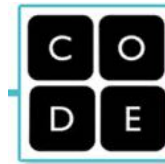


StepN2Action!

Support AAUW Texas Public Policy

2016 is an election year. Each branch or a group of concerned members within your branch can take the initiative and assist AAUW Texas as we "STEP into Action " for the second year with a 2015-2016 Impact Grant from AAUW National. We have just finished a state-wide Constitutional Amendment Election

advantage of the opportunity to hear an especially knowledgeable speaker talk about how to Step Into Action with AAUW.



THE HOUR OF CODE IS COMING AGAIN!



The Hour of Code movement keeps changing the world. It's reached every Apple store worldwide, the White House, 300 partners, and more than 100 million students in 180 countries.

The Hour of Code is a challenge: Try learning to code for just one hour and prove that anybody can learn the basics.

This year can really be a turning point for computer science in our schools - with new tutorials, new prizes, and an ambitious new goal for December 7-13. **Can you get involved?**

**Together, we want
to reach 100,000
events!**

I hope you'll join us to prove anybody can learn, and every young person deserves to learn how to build technology that will

and are gearing up for the 2016 November elections.

Not only will Texans be casting their vote for President, there are many legislative seats 'up for grabs' on both the national and state level. The Texas Primaries are held in May, 2016 and will decide on many candidates before the final vote in U.S. and State Representatives run for re-election every two years. There are also many state senate seats that will be decided due to resignations in the Texas Senate. Candidate filings begin on January 28, 2016.

Texans have still not had the opportunity to vote on an amendment to our state constitution addressing comprehensive Equal Pay for Equal Work. The Equal Pay Amendment voted on by both parties in both houses was sent to Gov. Perry in 2013, which he vetoed. Another Equal Pay Amendment was introduced during the 2015 legislative year and did not make it out of the Ways & Means Committee. Results?

The current Texas equal pay measure only states that there shall be no discrimination/retaliation for involvement in legal proceedings; however, this one provision is not far reaching enough and thus the push from state legislature to enact a more far reaching law. There are only four states in the country without any state equal pay laws (AL, MS, SC, UT)

http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/efte/flsa_does_and_doesnt_do.html
http://www.aauw.org/files/2015/10/State-Equal-Pay-Laws-Chart_Oct-2015-

AAUW Public Policy Committee members are asking that AAUW members:

- write their state legislators and those candidates running for state positions to sign a pledge that they will introduce or help introduce and support an Equal Pay for Equal Work Amendment during the 2017 Legislative Session. AAUW Texas Public Policy Committee members will compose this letter and post it on the AAUW Texas website in January, 2016. We need your help in sending these letters to all those running for election in 2016.
- Another way branches may help in the 2015-2016 Impact Grant initiative is to hold an AAUW Action Network Sign-up Drive at a couple of your meetings. Have branch members sign up to become Two Minute Activist and receive AAUW Action Network updates on bills before congress that affect women.
- Voter registration and voter turn-out should ALWAYS be a Public Policy objective. Voter apathy in our country and

impact everything in their future. Every organizer will receive a gift card to iTunes, Amazon or the Windows Store as a thank-you gift.

How can you help?

- Ask your school to participate
- Host your own Hour of Code event
- Take an hour to learn yourself

[Here's how to get involved.](#)

Computer science is foundational for every 21st-century student!

Most schools still don't teach it. We owe it to our children to start with just one hour.

[Join us.](#)

Hadi Partovi
Founder, code.org

WHAT IS CODING?

December 1st is your chance to find out. With a short investment of your time, you can learn to be a CODE BUDDY in a SBISD school or use the knowledge to teach it to your children or grandchildren.

There will be a special [HOUR OF CODE](#) training/Q&A session Tuesday, December 1, at the Harris County Spring Branch/Memorial Library at 930 Corbindale during the hours of 3:30 - 6:30.

Teachers, students and parents may take advantage of this

Texas is a major issue. To quote a 2014 New York Times editorial,

In 43 states, less than half the eligible population bothered to vote [in the 2014 midterm elections], and no state broke 60 percent. In the three largest states — California, Texas and New York — less than a third of the eligible population voted...The national turnout was 36.3 percent.

Texas women and their families deserve better, and to truly affect change in our great state, we must get out and vote, and encourage our family and friends to do the same!

Remember, it's always helpful to work in coalitions! Those of you who also hold memberships in the League of Women Voters, are in a perfect position to advance women's equality through advocacy efforts.

Please notify us if you or your branch are participating in public policy initiatives, or if you would like assistance in participating in advocacy efforts.

AAUW saw some amazing branch events to highlight domestic violence in October. We can inspire each other with our efforts and urge each other to keep up the great work! You can Step into Action with AAUW by pledging [to deliver vital Title IX resources](#) to your local schools and universities. This is the kind of rare opportunity where you can make an immediate difference in the lives of women and girls. These revolutionary materials from the U.S. Department of Education will give your school Title IX coordinator the info they need to better respond and prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and bullying and harassment. In fact, these materials provide the latest information on all the critical issues covered by Title IX - from pregnant and parenting students and increasing girls' athletic opportunities, to getting more women into the STEM fields. Your time is precious to AAUW, and taking this pledge - and reporting back to AAUW when you've fulfilled it - can create change that will last for years to come.



**CALL FOR NOMINEES
TO SERVE ON THE
2016-18
AAUW OF TEXAS
STATE BOARD**

opportunity. Both unplugged activities and online self-guided tutorials will be available. Once a student can see what they create, right before their eyes, they're empowered to keep going. The basics help nurture creativity and problem solving skills, and prepare them for any future career. Every 21st century student should have the opportunity to take part in creating technology that's changing our world. For more info, go online - <https://csedweek.org/> or Bryan.Kratish@hcpl.net.

The AAUW Texas State Board positions to be filled for the 2016-2018 biennium are as follows:

- President
- VP Program
- VP Membership
- VP AAUW Funds
- Secretary/Historian
- Finance Officer
- District Representatives (2 North, 2 South, 1 Central and 1 West)

Copies of officer job description are available on the state website: <http://aauw-tx.aauw.net> or can be e-mailed to you by the nominating committee (see below).

Any AAUW Texas branch, branch board or individual member may propose the name of one or more members for any AAUW Texas elective office. All names must be submitted in writing. Because AAUW officers are usually required to devote considerable time to their duties, we encourage the nomination of candidates who are ready and willing to serve if elected.

2014-2016 Nomination Committee Chair

Betty McClure, Plano/Collin County Branch
2309 Teakwood Ln
Plano, TX 75075-2043
bettyrmc@yahoo.com

REAP the Benefits of Your AAUW Membership

We **R.E.A.P.** the benefits of our AAUW membership through **Research, Education, Advocacy and Philanthropy**. AAUW Texas seeks to recognize all the ways our Texas branches sow the seeds that reap benefits for our members and all women and girls in our communities.

This recognition program is just that...**recognition** of the work your branch does to level the playing field for women and girls through research, education, advocacy and philanthropy. It is not a competition but instead serves as a way to acknowledge what you do and share your ideas with other branches.

Your branch presidents will be receiving entry materials via email shortly. You will be asked to list and describe briefly the actions that demonstrate your branch commitment to **Research, Education, Advocacy, and Philanthropy**.

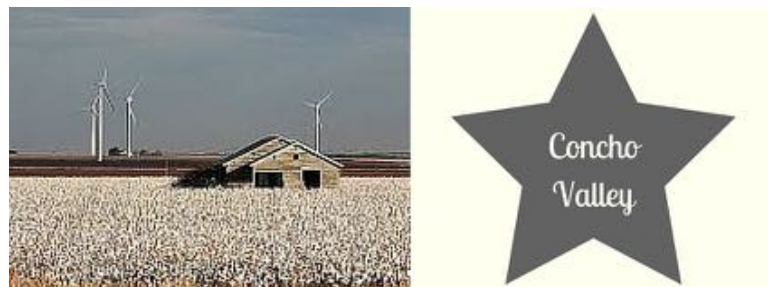
All branches who submit a R.E.A.P. application will be recognized

at the AAUW State Convention **Step Into Action** in San Antonio April 29-May 1, 2016. At that time, you may display scrapbooks, posters, flyers, etc. that illustrate your projects.

Start Gathering Materials Now!

Deadline: March 15, 2016

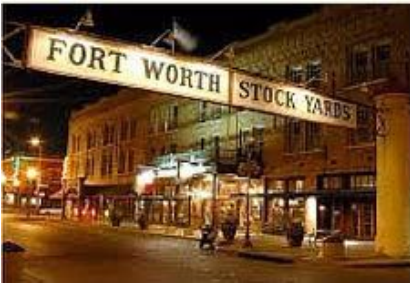
Send questions to: margiepoole11@yahoo.com (preferred). Or you can mail them to: Margie Poole, 9717 Cypresswood Drive #1008, Houston, TX 77070.



AAUW Texas is in the process of developing a new branch, to be called the **Concho Valley Branch**, based in San Angelo and surrounding areas. Organizers held an informational session on September 28 and October 22; while attendance was low, the quality of attendees was high. Several members joined at each meeting and others unable to attend the meetings indicated they will would join online. **Susan Roehrig** submitted the branch creation form on behalf of the branch, and **Jeannie Best** and **Ginny Phoenix** have signed and forwarded it to National, where it was approved by the Board of Directors at their October meeting. Thanks to AAUW Texas Secretary and San Angelo resident **Susan Roehrig**, Carrollton/Farmers Branch President (and part-time San Angelo resident) **Delryn Fleming**, Abilene President **Nancy Henderson**, new member **Jackie Thompson** for recruiting participants and distributing flyers and **Jeannie Best** for presenting information at the September meeting. As soon as we get additional paperwork from National, we will finalize creation of the branch.



AAUW Dallas has a long history of awarding scholarships to Dallas students, going back to 1912. This year, we awarded new scholarships to five young women and renewed scholarships for fifteen continuing students. These students are attending colleges across Texas and studying a wide range of subjects. In addition, AAUW Dallas has sponsored a scholarship winner to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in each of the last three years. The NCCWSL students have thanked us for the opportunity and for the inspiring and empowering conference sessions. We have a luncheon at a local restaurant each May, and we include the scholarship winners and their mothers to recognize and celebrate with them.



Many thanks to **Tarrant County Branch** for hosting the fall meeting of the **North Texas Metroplex Interbranch** on October 10, 2015. Approximately 30 members from seven branches participated in a workshop conducted by the [Blue Zones project of Fort Worth](#). We learned about ways to live longer, healthier lives. Members shared the latest news from their branches including upcoming fundraisers – the sale of poinsettias by the **Tarrant County Branch**, brunch with Silent Auction at the **Northeast Tarrant County Branch**, nut sales by the **Denton Branch**. **Georgia Kidwell** (Northeast Tarrant County) discussed public policy, and **Janice Schieffer** (Richardson) distributed copies of the League of Women Voter's guide for this fall's election. The next meeting will be on January 16, 2016, hosted by the **Southwest Dallas County Branch** at the [International Museum of Cultures](#) in Cedar Hill. Following the business meeting, we will have an opportunity to tour the museum.



The **Tarrant County and Northeast Tarrant County AAUW Branches** joined forces to participate in **Day of the Girl** event, sponsored by [Girl's Inc.](#) in downtown Fort Worth, Texas on Friday, October 9, 2015. Thanks to all who registered for the "AAUW" Team which enabled us to be recognized in the "Strong Special Team" category with our name printed on the t-shirts. This year, 725 people participated in the Girls Inc. of Tarrant County Day of the Girl celebration and March on Main Street. Proudly dressed in our red T-shirts while chanting, "Girls are Smart, Strong and Bold" and "Equal Pay for Equal Work" as we marched. This event was supported by **Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price**, City Council

members, leaders from various female organizations, female athletics from [Texas Christian University](#), the entire [Young Women's Leadership Academy of Fort Worth](#) and others.



On December 1st at the [Spring Branch Memorial Library](#), AAUW-WHC branch members will be honored with a proclamation from the mayor for computer science education week. The branch received the proclamation at the TACSE meeting during the [Grace Hopper Conference](#) in Houston where 12,000 computing women from around the world attended. Please celebrate the Hour of Code in your communities. See <https://hourofcode.com/us> to learn how to do it.



Christianne Corbett, [AAUW Senior Researcher](#), Bilal Khan, [City of Houston](#)



Karen North, [AAUW-WHC](#), Ammi Ludwick, [NCWIT](#), Sangeeta Gad, [UHD](#)

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