

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

[View this email in your browser](#)

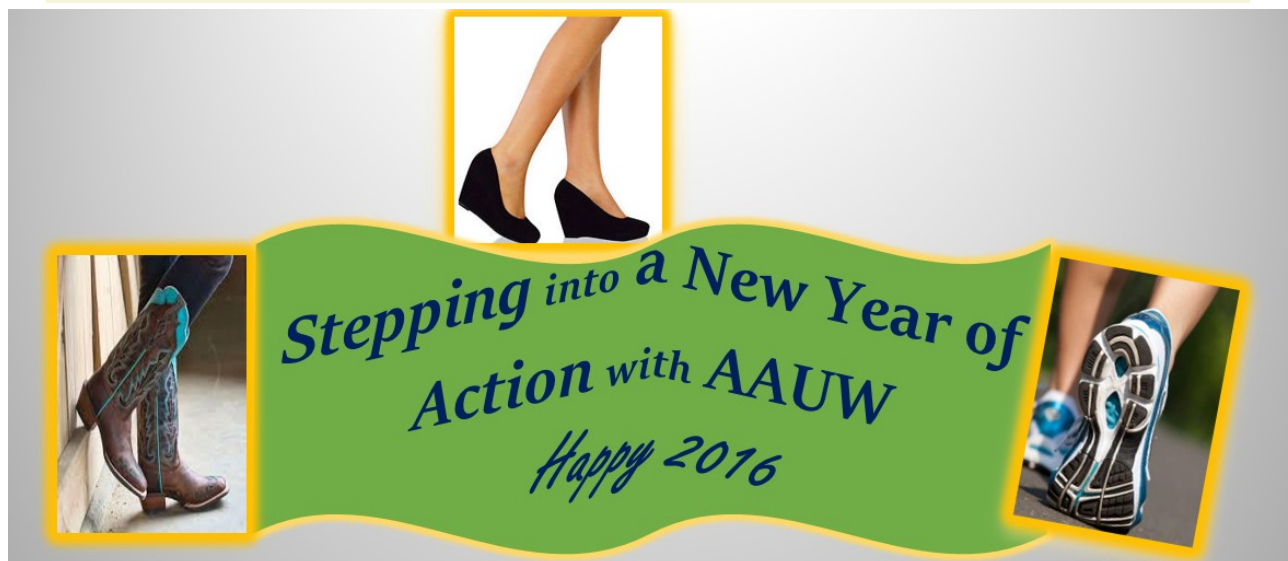


## University Woman Texas

Volume 67 | Issue 2 | Winter 2016

### Our Mission

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



Happy 2016 AAUW Texas members! As I mentioned in my article in the Fall November 2015 University Woman Texas, our theme is **Step into Action with AAUW**. From the branch newsletters I receive there is no doubt that you ARE Stepping into Action through your branch activities. AAUW Texas branch members are engaged in AAUW Mission Based events that benefit the women within your communities. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for the women of Texas.

One of the **Step into Action** goals for AAUW Texas has been to reach out to

individual branches and to emphasize ‘*One AAUW.*’ My personal philosophy is Unity and Strength in numbers. That happens as individual members & branches look beyond their own branch activities and make a commitment to the initiatives of AAUW Texas and AAUW National.

Your 2014 - 2016 State Board has made an effort to foster community and relationships between branches and state by:

- **Holding Board Meetings** in different locations of the state and communicated with Branches, National Members & Action Network members to attend our meetings and our Board Hosted ‘Cocktails & Convos’
- **Bringing leadership trainings** in the form of Women Leadership Summits to individual branches and College/University Partners
- **Publishing quarterly electronic issues of University Woman Texas.** There are over 1,000 email notices sent to members, we use Twitter messages as reminders, Facebook messages and Lone State Loop (another AAUW TX Facebook open forum) as well as post UWT on our AAUW Texas website ([aauw-tx.aauw.net](http://aauw-tx.aauw.net))... There are even individual branch members who take it upon themselves to email UWT to their branch members and send hard copies to their members without email or internet service. And yet, members still inform us, they are not receiving their quarterly UWT issue.
  - Have you checked your e-mail’s SPAM folder to see if your issue is ending up there?
  - Do you remember that you signed up to receive an electronic version of UWT and accidentally delete it?
  - Search your email box for the emails from AAUW Texas and its corresponding email address: [AAUWTX.members@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTX.members@gmail.com).
  - [Sign up](#) to receive University Woman Texas electronically.

#### University Woman Texas (UWT) Facts

- UWT issues can be downloaded from the AAUW Texas website. Of the 1,500 plus electronic UWT issues sent out, an average of 450 members at the very least ‘open’ their copy quarterly. (data from AAUW TX MailChimp account)
- AAUW Texas only mails out one HARD COPY of UWT every two years and that is the Biennial Convention Issue. The 2016 Winter Convention Issue of University Woman Texas will arrive in your mailboxes around March 1, 2016. It will be available online at [aauw-tx.aauw.net](http://aauw-tx.aauw.net) to view and download. It will also be sent out electronically.
- The majority of AAUW Texas branches and AAUW states use electronic mail to deliver their branch and state newsletters

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- **Increasing AAUW’s visibility in the state and form coalitions with like-minded organization on AAUW issues.** Through the application of AAUW Impact Grants in

2014-2015 & 2015-2016, AAUW has begun the necessary steps to advance AAUW Public Policy on various Women & Family issues. We have sponsored **AAUW Equal Pay Lobby Days** at the state capitol in 2014 & 2015 and plans are being made for Local Equal Pay Day events the week of April 11-15, 2016. 2016 is also an Election Year and we'll kick off our **2016 Get Out the Vote** (GOTV) campaign with an all-member webinar on January 13. With so much at stake in this election, learn how your branch can register, educate, and turn out millennial women voters nationwide as part of our **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard** campaign! This webinar will also be available online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) in the upcoming weeks. AAUW is 'networking' with The Coalition for Public School and exploring a relationship with a Statewide Network of Organizations for clean elections and public justice.

- AAUW Texas is striving to expand our College/University Partnerships and bring programs such as **Elect Her** and **Tech Savvy** to these campuses as well as enlist E-student Affiliates and grow Student Affiliate Branches. AAUW Texas also began a **Texas State NCCWSL Scholarship** program to assist College/University Partners AND Branches send students to the annual **National Conference of College Women Student Leaders** held in Maryland in early June. (see the article for this year's scholarship program)

Your State Board wants to assist your branch and provide you with opportunities and resources to enhance your branch efforts. We are here for you and want you to use the collective experience of the state board to your benefit. Together, using all our 1,750 plus AAUW Texas member experiences, we are unstoppable in our efforts to advocate for women & girls.

**Jeannie Best**

**AAUW Texas President**

ph.: 325.232.3116

email: [txaaauw.jbest@gmail.com](mailto:txaaauw.jbest@gmail.com)



2016 has arrived, and it is the year of the woman. 2016 is the year we will determinedly narrow the gender wage gap, the year we elect more women to office, the year we see women rise up and lead us into a future where we are no longer underpaid, valued by appearance, and we will thrive under elected leadership that represents values that

support women and families.

As leaders in AAUW we are ushers of this great new era. Generations upon generations of leaders continue to work passionately to bring us to this moment where women will win, lead and experience full equality.

Here are 5 easy and fun ways we can all contribute to the year of the woman:

1. Pledge to attend the [AAUW Texas State Convention](#), “Step into Action with AAUW,” April 29 – May 1. This convention promises to be bigger, and better than ever! Mark your calendars now.
2. Participate in the **Ann Richards Fund “President’s Challenge,”** and donate at least \$10.00 to support women scholars completing dissertations and scholars seeking funds for postdoctoral research leave or for preparing completed research for publication. Challenge your fellow AAUW leaders, family and friends to match your donation!
3. Join the **AAUW Membership Phone-athon Campaign!** Each year, a small percentage of AAUW branch members do not renew their memberships. This year, we are challenging all branches to participate in our 2016 phone-athon to recruit former members back to AAUW by March 31, 2016. You can help jump-start fiscal year 2017! Find out more info [here](#).
4. Volunteer or donate to the first ever [Tech Savvy](#) hosted in Texas at Texas Tech University! 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. Find out more info [here](#).
5. Celebrate **Equal Pay Day** on April 12! Host an Unhappy Hour at a local watering hole or coffee shop, and recognize the gender wage gap, table at a local college or university and register students to vote, request a proclamation from your local Mayor. By recognizing the Equal Pay Day we do our part to bring visibility to this issue. Contact your Regional Field Rep or State Board Members for assistance in recognizing this vital day!

2016 burgeons with opportunity to advance and empower the women and girls of Texas. Together we can make meaningful progress that will benefit an entire future.

Please contact me with any ideas, questions or suggestions!

**Melodía Gutiérrez**  
**AAUW Texas Regional Field Representative**

ph.: 202.203.8353

email: [gutierrezm@aauw.org](mailto:gutierrezm@aauw.org)

# IN MEMORY

OF AAUW MEMBERS



**Fran Schroeder**, a member of the AAUW San Antonio (TX) branch since 1987, died in 2015. A local scholarship fund was started in her name and a graduate student scholarship will be awarded in her memory in April 2016. Those who fondly remember Fran are invited to add to this fund. Fran was a long-time San Antonio teacher who loved reading. So much so, that for many years she was the facilitator of the Saturday Book Discussion Group. She earned her B.A. at Trinity University and a M.S. at Texas A & M University. A few years before her death she moved to the New York City area to be nearer to her son and his family. Members of the book group remember Christmas meetings at her mid-century home on Town Briar. The holiday décor featured a decorated bare tree branch, reflected in a two-story high window. During her last years in San Antonio the group met several times in the 1920s-era home on Farr Drive that she shared with her daughter Le Green and family. Fran Schroeder will be long remembered and honored as a friend and a voracious reader of interesting books.

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# 47<sup>TH</sup> AAUW TEXAS BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION

Hosted by AAUW Texas San Antonio Branch, Inc



Early Bird Registration  
\$199.00 thru March 30

Maximize your Power,  
Leadership & Diversity

Gain Insights, Learn New  
Skills, Become Inspired

Networking Opportunities

Linda Hallman, AAUW  
National CEO

Hyatt Place, Airport  
AAUW TX Rate:  
\$99.00

NORRIS CENTER

618 NW Loop 410, Suite 207  
San Antonio, TX. 78216

[www.aauw-tx.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-tx.aauw.net)

APRIL 29 – MAY 1, 2016

*introducing the candidates*  
**for state board**

The nominating committee has received the following nominees for AAUW Texas State Board positions.

**Pam Wolfe, President**  
**Dixie Christian, Program Vice President**  
**Ginny Phoenix, Membership Vice President**  
**Traci Jensen, Funds Vice President**  
**Gayna DuPont, Finance Officer**  
**Susan Roehrig, Secretary**  
**Marina Rivers, District Representative Central Texas**  
**Gloria Long, District Representative North Texas**  
**Brenda Moss, District Representative South Texas**

We still have a need for District Representatives in the West District, and additional District Representatives in the North District and the South District. The North and South Districts have two representatives each. Please consider applying for one of these roles.

Thank you to the committee members Gloria Long, Kay Zilliox, Judy Reinhart, Elka Jaross, Susan Roehrig, and Margo Johnson for their hard work. Serving on the board is a most rewarding experience, continuing the AAUW traditions of education and equity for women and girls.



At the AAUW Texas 2016 Convention, there will be a vote on proposed bylaw changes submitted by the Bylaws Committee and branches. Click [here](#) for a complete copy of the bylaws showing the following: (1) mandatory changes from AAUW national in blue and (2) proposed changes to be voted on in red.

The rationale for the changes are: Article IV. Section 3.a.(4)(c) to clarify that every branch member in the State of Texas must be a member of AAUW Texas; Article IV. Section 5.d. is proposed for deletion since AAUW is no longer affiliated with IFUW; Article V. Section 1.a. is proposed to increase the pool of members available to serve as chair and alternate chair of the nominating committee; and Article XVI. states the current applicable law.

The changes in Article V. Section 2 and Article XIII. are proposed to conform AAUW Texas voting with AAUW national One Member One Vote.

***Malinda Gaul***  
***AAUW Texas, Parliamentarian/Bylaws***



**“Step into Action with AAUW” by attending our 47th Biennial AAUW Texas State Convention in San Antonio, April 29- May 1, 2016**

**Location:** [Norris Conference Center](#)

Park North Shopping Center  
618 NW Loop 410 #207  
San Antonio, TX 78216

**Hotel:** [Hyatt Place San Antonio Airport/Quarry Market](#)

7615 Jones Maltsberger  
San Antonio, TX 78216  
Phone: 210.930.2333

When registering, mention **AAUW** to receive a special rate of \$99/single or double. Hotel reservations should be made by March 30, 2016.

### **Convention Agenda**

#### **Friday, Pre-Convention, Hyatt Place**

- Board Meeting, 1 – 4 PM
- Registration, 1 – 7 PM
- Reception, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

#### **Saturday, Norris Conference Center**

- Registration, 8 – 10 AM
- Opening Ceremonies, 8:45 - 9:30 AM
- Keynote Presentation/Panel



### **Proposed Change in AAUW Texas State Dues Up for Member Vote**

For more years than many of us can remember, annual AAUW Texas State dues have been:

- AAUW Texas State Dues (including Paid Life Members): \$10.00
- AAUW Texas Undergraduate Student Affiliate Dues: \$1.00
- Honorary 50 Year Life Members (AAUW members for 50 years, plus): \$0.00

The 2014-2016 State Board members have been reviewing the current state dues structure, plus the AAUW Texas State Goals and benefits offered to branches. As a result, the 2014-2016 State Board recommends that State Dues for Regular Membership (including Paid Life Members) be raised to \$13.00 annually. Undergraduate Student Affiliate State Dues would remain at the current rate of \$1.00. Honorary 50 Years Member Dues would remain at the current rate of \$0.00.

**AAUW and AAUW Texas State Dues Structure would become:**



- Discussion, 9:30 – 10:30 AM
- Break, 10:30 – 10:45 AM
- Morning Workshops, 10:45 - Noon
- Lunch & Speaker, Noon – 1:30 PM  
(AAUW National Update & Legacy Circle Presentation)
- Afternoon Workshops, 1:45 – 3:00 PM
- Break, 3:00 – 3:15 PM
- Business Meeting & Voting, 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM
- District Meetings, 4:15 – 4:40 PM
- Day Close, 4:45 PM
- Reception (Cash Bar), 6 – 7 PM
- Banquet & Speaker, 7 – 9 PM

### Sunday, Norris Conference Center

- New Board Intro & Branch REAP Awards, 8 – 9 AM
- Break & Snack, 9:00 - 9:15 AM
- Workshops, 9:15 AM – 10:30 AM
- Closing Session Speaker, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
- Adjournment, 11:30 AM

For any other questions, please contact

**Patricia Sanford**, email:

[pacmsan@me.com](mailto:pacmsan@me.com).



### Nominate a Title IX Champion!

Send a summary of their Title IX work and a picture to [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org).

The Title IX Champion award celebrates the vital Title IX advocacy work of AAUW

- National Dues: \$49.00
- AAUW Texas State Dues (including Paid Life Members): \$13.00
- AAUW Texas Undergraduate Student Affiliate Dues: \$1.00
- AAUW Honorary (50 yr) Members: \$0.00
- Individual Branch Dues: varies (see individual branch structure)

This dues change must be voted on by the AAUW Texas membership at the 47th Biennial State Convention, April 30, 2016 Business Meeting along with the proposed AAUW Texas State Bylaws revisions.

For questions and concerns, please contact your District Representative:

#### North District:

Gloria Long, [gnmlong@swbell.net](mailto:gnmlong@swbell.net)

Kay Zilliox, [kayzilliox@gmail.com](mailto:kayzilliox@gmail.com)

#### South District:

Margo Johnson, [margohj@aol.com](mailto:margohj@aol.com)

Elka Jaross, [elkaluv@aol.com](mailto:elkaluv@aol.com)

#### Central District:

Judy Reinhart, [jareinhart@att.net](mailto:jareinhart@att.net)

#### West District:

Jeannie Best, [txaauw.jbest@gmail.com](mailto:txaauw.jbest@gmail.com)

**YOUNGER WOMEN'S  
TASK FORCE**  
powered by AAUW

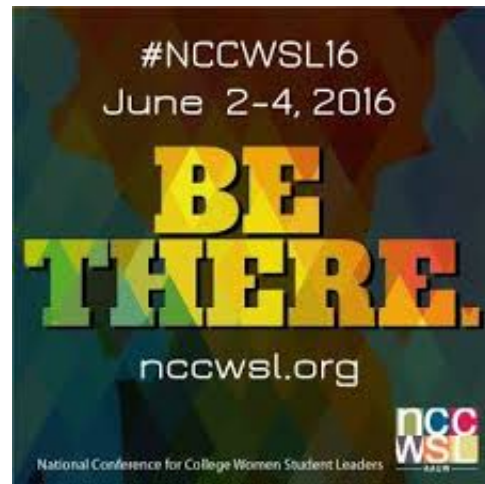
All AAUW members in their 20s and 30s are invited to complete the Younger Women's Task Force [e-survey](#). Your participation will help AAUW develop content that interests and affects our millennial

supporters across the country. In the 40 years since Title IX was passed, AAUW members and supporters have done amazing work to promote gender equity in education. They have investigated Title IX compliance, cheered on women athletes, supported educators who called for fairness, lobbied for equitable school policies, and helped teach students, parents, educators, coaches, and administrators about the law's requirements. We have much more work ahead of us to fulfill Title IX's promise, and AAUW Title IX champions inspire us to press on!



AAUW is partnering with DiversityComm Inc. to provide all AAUW members and leaders with FREE digital issues of the company's five nationally recognized diversity-focused magazines, [Professional Woman's Magazine](#), [U.S. Veterans Magazine](#), [Black EOE Journal](#), [Diversity in STEAM Magazine](#), and [Hispanic Network Magazine](#). This is a great opportunity to learn about issues and interests that there audiences care about. To access the free issues, click on the link and enter username: AAUW and password: 2015.

members.



[Register now](#) for the 2016 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders!



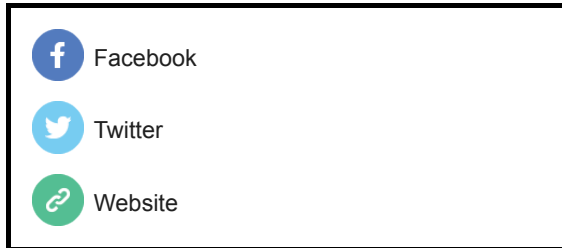
## Texas Funds Report

According to the latest data from AAUW, the [Ann Richards Fellowship Fund](#) has accumulated \$121,230.23. We still need \$78,769.77 to reach our goal. Since there are other needs for funds throughout AAUW, we Texans will have to carry the majority of this Fellowship Fund. I know we can do it! Make a promise to donate in 2016. We need you!

You may also download the DiversityComm app, available on [iTunes](#), [Google](#), and [Amazon](#).

*Martha Matthews*  
*AAUW Texas Vice President,*  
*Funds*

Follow us on Social Media!



### Did you know?

- The AAUW Texas Facebook page has 731 page likes. Have you liked our page?
- The AAUW Twitter page has 364 followers. Do you follow us on Twitter?

Like us, follow us, share our posts, invite your friends, and add branch updates!



### AAUW ANNUAL ART CONTEST

Want to share your artwork with thousands of AAUW members?

[Enter the 2016 AAUW Art Contest today!](#)

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the



**Get All Your Branch Members Back!**

**Join the AAUW Membership Phone-athon Campaign**

Each year, a small percentage of AAUW branch members do not renew their memberships.

This year, we are challenging all branches to participate in our 2016 phone-athon to recruit 2,016 former members back to AAUW by **March 31, 2016**. You can help jump-start fiscal year 2017! Learn more [here](#).

spring. [View the 2016 Gallery of Entries](#) The gallery will be updated every Monday.

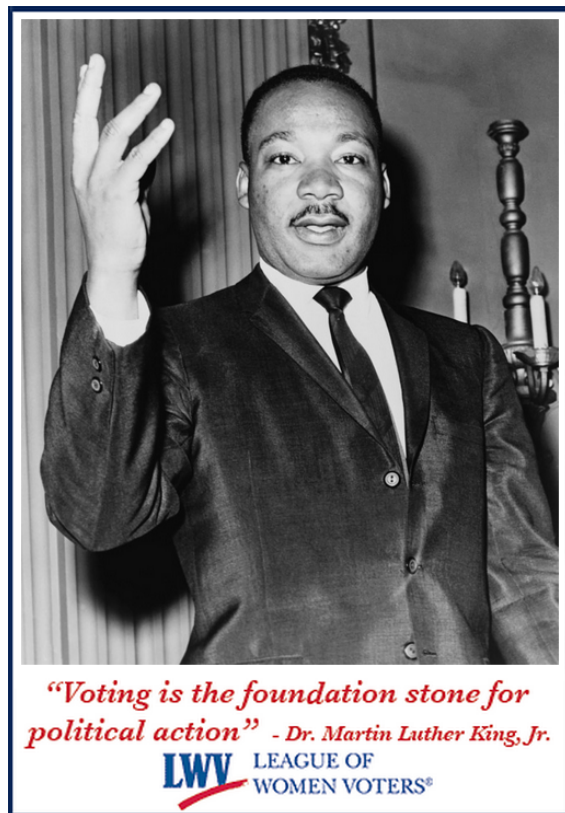
### 2016 Timeline

Submission Period: January 7-28

Voting Period: February 3-29

Winner Announcement: Early March

For more information on the AAUW Art Contest, see the [contest rules](#).



*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

**Martin Luther King Jr.**



**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 electronically (preferred) to: [margiepoole11@yahoo.com](mailto:margiepoole11@yahoo.com). Or you can mail them to: Margie Poole, 9717 Cypresswood Drive #1008, Houston, TX 77070

Click [here](#) for more information and to access the application.

**Has your branch pledged to deliver new Title IX Resources to the K-12 public school districts in your area?**

### **Support Gender Equity In Education**



Many people don't know what Title IX is really about – ending sex discrimination in schools, and not just on the playing field! Even officials who are responsible for following the law, often called Title IX coordinators, don't always understand the full scope of the law and how it can be a valuable tool to make campuses safer and more equitable for all. Title IX is more than just athletics: Title IX coordinators should be, among other things, monitoring the gender ratio in STEM courses, working to end sexual harassment and violence, and supporting pregnant and parenting students.

### **We need your help!**

Pledge to deliver [brand new resources](#) from the U.S. Department of Education to your public & private K-12 school district's Title IX coordinator.

AAUW has published a [how-to guide](#) to help you accomplish this task. Let us know if you can deliver these Title IX resources by pledging to do so!

[Tech Savvy](#) is a one-day STEM Conference designed for girls 6th through 9th grade and their parents. The





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

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!

### **We're looking for Volunteers!**

Click here to access the [Volunteer Application](#).

### **Interested in financially supporting the Tech Savvy Conference?**

Make sure to choose Tech Savvy @ Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX in the "Fund Name" drop-down menu. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Donate to TechSavvy



**There is Still Time..... Don't Sit This One Out!!!**

Voter Registration\* through Feb. 1, 2016

\*There is no length of residency requirement before registering to vote in Texas. To vote in an upcoming election, the properly completed voter registration form must be postmarked 30 days before the upcoming election to be valid. In person registration must also be completed 30 days before an election. Texas does not allow online voter registration at this time.

Texas Primary Election: March 1, 2016

Early voting: Feb. 16 - 27 , 2016

Registered voters 65 and older may request an Absentee Ballot to mail-in.

To view your district ballot visit: [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

AAUW Texas is offering four **NCCWSL Matching Branch Grants**. These grants will match a \$275 state grant with a matching \$275 branch investment for a total grant of \$550. Participants selected for these grants should be underclasswomen instead of graduating seniors or students that are transferring elsewhere. This is so the conference attendees can return to their campuses and branches to share what they have learned.

[NCCWSL](#) is a two-and-a-half day conference that helps students hone leadership skills. AAUW collaborates with [NASPA](#) - Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education to present this annual leadership conference, which began in 1985. Over the years Texas Colleges and Universities have sent many students to the NCCWSL conferences.

**Conference Date: June 1-3, 2016**

**Conference Location: University of Maryland, College Park**

- Applications must be received by AAUW Texas by Friday, March 18, 2016.
- You will need to set an earlier deadline date for your branch to receive their student applications.
- Application can be sent via e-mail by midnight March 18 or U.S. mailed by midnight March 15.

Find more information about the Grant Directions and Branch and Student Application Forms on the [AAUW Texas website](#). If you have any questions, please contact me.

***Priscilla Mowinkel***

***AAUW Texas College/University Chair***

*Email: [aauwtx.nccwsl@gmail.com](mailto:aauwtx.nccwsl@gmail.com)*

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### **Elections at 2016 State Conference Require Recognized Branch Delegates**

Each branch must elect an appropriate number of delegates based on its size. Our guidelines for determining the number of delegates that each branch is entitled to have is based on the AAUW Texas Bylaws, Article XIII, Meetings of AAUW Texas:

Section 2. Voting Body or Representation.

a. The voting body of the state convention shall consist of duly elected and verified delegates, the members of the Board of Directors, all past AAUW Texas presidents, college/university representatives and National members who are members of AAUW Texas.

c. Each branch shall have three votes and, in addition, there may be one vote for every ten members of the Association

above the first ten or major fraction thereof. Each branch shall apportion its votes among the elected delegates.



Student affiliates, in addition to dual members of the branch, count toward the branch membership totals that will be submitted to the State Finance Officer, **Inés García** after February 1, 2016.

The State Finance Officer will soon be sending all branch presidents specific instructions regarding procedures necessary for branches to follow in order to ensure that branch delegates receive the proper credentials at the 2016 State Convention.

***Ma. Inés García***  
***AAUW Texas Finance Officer***



AAUW's [It's My Vote 2016 GOTV Kickoff Webinar!](#) may be viewed online at any time - and don't forget to share with friends and supporters.

From registering voters to hosting voter education events like candidate and issue forums, AAUW members are dedicated to making sure every woman is registered and has the information she needs to cast her vote in 2016.

Are you ready to get out the vote in 2016? [Sign up to be a campaign coordinator for your branch today!](#)

As a campaign coordinator, you'll receive information about upcoming Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) events, deadlines, and trainings from the AAUW public policy team and help to ensure we meet our 2016 GOTV goals!

As always, the AAUW public policy team is here to help. Contact us with questions or

feedback at [votered@aauw.org](mailto:votered@aauw.org). We look forward to working together in the months leading up to Election Day!



The AAUW Denton (TX) branch is making plans for its upcoming [Expanding Your Horizons](#) (EYH) Conference on February 20, 2016.



### Why a Career Conference for Girls?

Some of the most important and best-paying future careers will be in math and science, fields that are wide open for young women who are prepared. These young women need to take classes in math and science in middle school and high school so the doors of opportunity will be open to them later.

At this conference participants will meet women successful in math- and science-related fields. They'll discover what they do on their jobs, what education and skills are needed, and how they balance family and career.

Each workshop includes hands-on activities that are fun and help the girls get a feel for the career.

**Denton County Women's Education Network, Inc** is grateful to AAUW Denton for sponsoring EYH.





The [AAUW Farmers Branch \(TX\) Branch](#) just celebrated its 25th successful year of hosting **Reach for the Stars**, a 1/2 day career 15-subject workshop for 7th & 8th grade girls to introduce them to careers in math & science. The workshop features hands-on activities for girls and opportunities to meet STEM role models, with a focus on the “growth mindset” promoted in the “Why So Few?” research report.

The event provides a “pay-off” for the school district, according to **Michelle Capener**, Counseling Facilitator of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, “This unique event has afforded our 7th and 8th grade female students the opportunity to explore STEM career options, to interact with successful female role models, and to view a college campus firsthand. Through their participation in the program, our students have gained valuable insight into potential professions as well as motivation to succeed in their academic pursuits. Our district is sincerely appreciative of the investment made in our students by the American Association of University Women.”

A diverse student population from seven area middle schools attends the event. At the workshops girls learn that if they persevere, they can continue to grow and build their skills in STEM. **Mary Lovell**, Presenter Recruiter, enjoys finding diverse workshops for the young women. The veterinarian brings a pet bulldog for examination and a parrot for anatomy instruction. The geologist encourages volcano explosions, and the App Developer helps the participants move from inspiration to reality in creating an app. The young women are active in every workshop, leaving with Mary Kay creams they have made, bracelets from tumbled stones, or components from the tiny robots. The seventh graders tell us they are looking forward to next year and the eighth graders ask why they can’t return.

In addition to the middle school counselors and the workshop presenters, the third component for success has been the college site. Besides the obvious compatibility of classrooms and labs, a College-University Partner, **Brookhaven College** has embraced its role in promoting science and math to young girls. Physics professor and AAUW member **Anahita Sidhwa** has handled the site arrangements as they have become more complicated with the greater popularity of the event. Among a dozen other smaller details,



she schedules rooms based on presenter needs, coordinates with the college public information office for design and printing of the program, and contacts the campus police for security coverage. Having a committed on-site employee has helped the branch hold a more seamless event.

**Reach for the Stars** offers a payoff for the college and the community. Since 1991 over 4,000 students from CFBISD have attended these conferences, and we have records to indicate that about 55% of them came back to Brookhaven College to take credit classes.

The Farmers Branch-Carrollton branch was presented a plaque of appreciation by the Board of Trustees of C-FB ISD for 25 years of coordination of this valuable workshop for young women.

The event is a project is supported **AAUW Foundation**.



On January 9, 2016 [AAUW Northeast Tarrant County \(TX\) Branch](#) members visited [The Gatehouse](#) in Grapevine - a supportive living community where women and children in crisis receive safe refuge, ample time, practical resources and healthy relationships to discover new paths for permanent change. It was developed by a group of friends seeing a need to give other women a hand up with life's challenges, a place to break the cycles of abuse and poverty.

We are excited about an event we are planning for next October for 5th and 6th grade girls in the HEB ISD. **Full STEAM Ahead** will introduce the girls to the STEM and Arts classes available to them in the school district, particularly at the state-of-the-art technology facility, the [Gene A. Buinger Career & Technical Education Academy](#), and will encourage them to include these fields in their school and career plans.

Our branch has been very successful with fundraising this fall and has sent \$2000 to the **Ann Richards American Fellowship** fund and \$1500 to the **AAUW Fund** in addition to supporting our two local scholarships.



On October 20, 2015, the [AAUW Plano/Collin County \(TX\) Branch](#) led a [Start Smart workshop](#) at **University of Texas in Dallas (UTD)**. Forty women from various departments attended the event facilitated by branch member **Robin Bellerby**. The women were engaged through interactive activities and a willingness to share their personal thoughts on the wage gap. The branch will be participating in another Start Smart workshop at UTD on March 2, 2016.



**Start Smart** workshops are specifically designed for college students about to enter the job market. According to AAUW's research, women one year out of college are [paid only 82 percent](#) of

what their male counterparts receive. By using the skills taught in this workshop, women are prepared to:

- Negotiate their starting salary and narrow the gap early,
- Improve their lifelong earning potential,
- Articulate their value,
- Build confidence in their negotiation style,
- Sharpen their budgeting skills.

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