



Brief History of AAUW Texas

The first branch formed in Texas was the Dallas branch in 1908, under the name The College Club. In 1912, to communicate more effectively with branches, ACA (Association of Collegiate Alumnae) divided the country into sections (now called regions), each with an elected national officer called Regional Vice President. The state of Texas fell within the Southwest Central Section.

The first Southwest Central Regional conference held in 1926 was the final impetus in organizing a Texas state division. At the conference in April 1926, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames was elected chairman of the temporary organization, and the first convention of the Texas Division was arranged for October 8 and 9, 1926 at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas. At the time, there were ten charter branches and fewer than six hundred members. The original branches were Amarillo, Austin, Commerce, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Georgetown, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Waco. The San Antonio and Fort Worth branches belonged to the Southern Association of College Women before 1921. At its peak, AAUW Texas had over one hundred branches within the state and a combined membership of almost nine thousand.

AAUW Texas has a rich history of community, state, and international involvement. Successful community projects have marked the history of AAUW TX branches. These include support for cultural activities, monitoring the use of local and state tax revenues, Conferences, Educational Equity Roundtables, Sister-to-Sister Conferences, STEM programs and programs to assist nontraditional students. In recent years, AAUW Texas has publicized and held AAUW's Start Smart and Work Smart programs. The most recent project created by AAUW Texas was the SHARE (Supporting Hardworking Affiliates Rising to Empower) project. This provides an opportunity for branches (affiliates) to receive a grant from the state for a specific project.

Many individual members have received AAUW fellowships and grants that provided financial assistance for publication of children's books, history projects, completion of higher degrees, and change of careers. AAUW Texas members have been individually and collectively involved in activities that have improved their communities and enhanced the status of women.

AAUW Texas has played an active part in the Legal Advocacy Fund since its inception in 1983. Former AAUW TX President Sylvia Newman was the second President of LAF. Several cases involving Texas Universities have been supported by the Fund. Three Texas universities have received Progress in Equity Awards for their efforts to advance equity on their campuses: NETWORKS, Collin County Community College (2000), Southern Methodist University Women's Symposium, The Education of Women for Social and Political Leadership (1996) and the Mary Hufford Hall, Texas Woman's University (1992).

Several AAUW Board of Directors have come from Texas State and our Branches. The state has been visited by members of the AAUW Board of Directors and by a U. S. Speaker of the House.

AAUW TX has historically supported those legislative issues which critically impact the women and children of the state. Major thrusts have included: support of the Texas Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), support of specific acts which positively affect the status of women, endorsement of legislation aimed at improving the status of Texas schools and support of public policy which expands appreciation of the arts, Right to Vote and Equity for all. AAUW TX has been a sponsor of Women's Legislative Days. Recently, AAUW has worked in coalition with a variety of other groups, including the Texas Freedom Network, Coalition for Public Schools, the Texas Women's Health Coalition, and National Association of Social Workers – Texas.

The archives for AAUW Texas are in the Texas Woman's University Library. In 1951, TWU generously provided space and personnel to provide a permanent home for the State historical materials.



AAUW TEXAS PAST PRESIDENTS

1926	Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames	Georgetown
1926 - 1928	Mrs. Barbara Hogan	Fort Worth
1928 - 1930	Mrs. E. G. Sellards	Austin
1930 - 1932	Mrs. Earl Wyatt	Amarillo
1932 - 1934	Miss Gladys Morgan	San Antonio
1934 - 1936	Dr. Evelyn Carrington	Dallas
1936 - 1938	Mrs. I. M. Alexander	Corpus Christi
1938 - 1941	Dr. Anna Powell	Denton
1941 - 1943	Mrs. A. A. Brown	San Antonio
1943 - 1945	Mrs. Bruce Duncan	Waco
1945 - 1947	Dr. Margaret Lee Wiley	Denton
1947 - 1949	Dr. Pearl Ponsford	El Paso
1949 - 1951	Miss May Jones	Stephenville
1951 - 1953	Dr. Vera Rogers Maxwell	Fort Worth
1953 - 1955	Mrs. Burkella Ochsner	Amarillo
1955 - 1957	Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor	Greenville
1957 - 1959	Dr. Gladys Hicks Newman	Waco
1959 - 1961	Mrs. J. H. Sorrels	Bryan-College Station
1961 - 1963	Mrs. Eunice Brown	Dallas
1963 - 1965	Mrs. Florence Weiss	Kerrville
1965 - 1967	Mrs. Mary Haslam	Orange
1967 - 1969	Mrs. Catherine Pedlar	San Antonio
1969 - 1971	Dr. Allena K. Pace	Huntsville
1971 - 1973	Mrs. Jeanette Pool	San Marcos
1973 - 1975	Mrs. Polly Orcutt	Dallas
1975 - 1977	Mrs. Faye Maxwell	El Paso
1977 - 1979	Mrs. Juanita Cole	Abilene
1979 - 1981	Mrs. Alice W. Church	Houston
1981 - 1983	Dr. Lynnette K. Solomon	Nacogdoches
1983 - 1984	Marian Johnson	Hurst
1984 - 1986	Rema Lou Brown	Clear Lake City
1986 - 1988	Irene T. Ramirez	Dallas
1988 - 1990	Sylvia Newman	Abilene
1990 - 1992	Betty Anderson	Lubbock
1992 - 1994	Sharon Schmelzle	Southwest Dallas County
1994 - 1996	Dr. Helen Oujesky	San Antonio
1996 - 1998	Carol Cushman	Tyler
1998 - 2000	Betty McClure	Plano

2000 - 2002	Dr. Nora Garza	Laredo
2002 - 2004	Malinda Gaul	San Antonio
2004 - 2006	Pat Ross	Houston
2006 - 2008	Linda Conger	Austin
2008 – 2010	Ann Berasley	Austin
2010 – 2011	Margaret Bentley	DeSoto
2011 -- 2016	Jeannie Best	Abilene
2016 – 2018	Pam Wolfe	Austin
2018 – 2020	Malinda Gaul	San Antonio
2020 -- 2022	Gloria Long	Northeast Tarrant



ACTIVE AAUW TEXAS BRANCHES

Date of Formation

Abilene*	1932	Lubbock/Betty Anderson*	1925
Alvin	1949	Nacogdoches	1931
Amarillo*	1923	North Dallas County*	1974
Arlington.....	1952	North Harris County.....	1974
Austin.....	1923	Northeast Tarrant County* ...	1969
Corpus Christi	1927	Orange	1949
Dallas.....	1908	Plano/Collin County*	1974
Denton	1927	Polk County.....	1980
El Paso	1915	San Antonio.....	1908
Fort Bend County.....	1974	Southeast Harris County	1991
Georgetown	1923	Southwest Dallas County*	1971
Hill County*	1954	Tarrant County	1972
Houston	1937	Tyler	1931
		West Harris County	1976

*** Indicates Name Change**

- Canyon merged with Amarillo
- Duncanville to Southwest Dallas County
- Hurst to Northeast Tarrant County
- Farmers Branch/Carrollton to North Dallas County
- Kerrville to Hill County
- La Porte Pasadena to Southeast Harris County
- O. C. Cooper to Abilene Branch
- Plano to Plano/Collin County

Former AAUW Texas Branches

Date of Formation/Date of Disbandment

Alamo City	1972/1986	Lake Houston	1977/2001
Alice	1966/1988	Lamesa	1953/1977
Alpine	1936/2006	Laredo	1953/2003
Andrews	1958/1980	Levelland	1955/1986
Athens	1972/1993	Longview	1939/1949
Baytown	1938/1998	Lufkin	1978/1997
Beaumont	1937/1996	Midland	1940/1993
Bee County	1974/1996	Mineral Wells	1950/ 2000
Belton	1928/1997	Monahans	1964/1988
Big Springs	1940/1988	McAllen	1950
Borger	1935/1995	Mesquite	1951
Brazosport	1947/2000	Montgomery Cnty	1973/1988,1992
Brenham	1941/1990	Montrose	1977/1991
Brownfield	1953	Muleshoe	1956/1994
Brownwood	1930/1990	Nederland	1970/1980
Bryan-College Station	1948	New Braunfels	1964/1996
Canyon	1928	Odessa	1953/1995
Childress	1933/1997	Paso del Norte	1979/1992
Clear Lake City	1972/1997	Pecos	1959/1988
Cleburne	1950/1994	Plainview	1928/1931,1947/2004
Commerce	1925/1998	Port Arthur	1930/1992
Concho Valley	2016-2020	Quitman	1973/1980
Copperas Cove	1969/ 2000	Ranger	1941/1990
Crane	1959/1980	Richardson	1967/2020
Del Rio	1969/1988	Rio Grande City/Roma	1958/1963/2002
Dickinson	1969/1976	San Angelo	1929/1997
Dumas	1954/1991	San Marcos	1928/1993
Duncanville	1954/1991	Sequin	1954/1996
Edinburg	1955/1990	Sherman	1949/1996
Ellis County	1941/1988	Sisbee	1978/1984
Fort Worth	1913/2007	Snyder	1952/1990
Galveston	1938/1992	Spring Valley	1957/2004
Garland	1974/ 2001	South Liberty County	1971/1991
Grand Prairie	1969	Stephenville	1933/2020
Greater Brownsville	1983/1997	Sweetwater	1952/1994
Greater Lewisville	1992	Temple	1948/1963
Greenville	1955/2016	Texarkana	1929/1980
Hardin County	1978/1988	Texas City	1957/
Harlingen	1952/2021	Uvalde	1939/1986
Henderson	1975/1997	Victoria	1993/1996
Hereford	1971/1986	Vidor	1978/1996
Huntsville	1928/2021	Vernon	1953
Irving	1960/	Waco	1926/ 2001
Katy	1983/1990	Wharton	1954/1988
Killeen	1969/1990	Winkler County	1940/1988
Kingsville	1929/2003	Wichita Falls	1927-2019

Awards

AAUW Texas Outstanding Member Award

Each biennium AAUW Texas recognizes a distinguished member for their contributions to AAUW and their community. Recipients have included:

1992	Dr. Nadine Barlow	Clear Lake
1994	Lynn Soloman	Nacodogches
1996	Virginia Mann	McAllen
1998	Helen Oujesky	San Antonio
2002	Betty Anderson	Lubbock
2004	Alice Church	Houston
2006	Miriam Tormollan	Austin
2010	Margaret A. Carlson	West Harris County
2012	Kathleen Ballard	Northeast Tarrant Cnty
2012	MarJoe Barnhart	Tarrant County
2018	Diana Guarniere	West Harris County
2020	Delyn Fleming	North Dallas

AAUW Texas Outstanding New Member

In 2004 AAUW Tx initiated an award to recognize new members (fewer than 2 years) who have made innovative and positive contributions which have had a positive and significant impact on a local branch.

2004	Alejandra Lazcana	Plano/ Collin County
2006	Joy Vann	Lubbock
2012	Betty McCutchan	West Harris County
2012	Njoki McElroy	Dallas
2018	Cheryl Fuller	San Antonio
2020	Kimberly Carpenter	Northeast Tarrant Cnty

At the 2008 AAUW Texas Convention, Texas honored our [Texas 100 Women of Distinction](#).

Three Texas programs have received the Progress in Equity Award:

2000: NETWORKS, Collin County Community College (TX)
1996: SMU Women's Symposium, The Education of Women for Social and Political Leadership, Southern Methodist University (TX)

1992: Mary Hufford Hall, Texas Women's University

One Texas program received an AAUW Breaking through Barriers Award Honorable Mention. Breaking Through Barriers Awards showcase the ways in which we are fulfilling the AAUW mission in our communities and around the country:

2011: *High School Sophomore Summits*, AAUW North Harris County (TX)