



*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change. In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.*

## **The President's Corner**

Holidays usually make for busy times both for our members and our branches. This publication is being sent to let you know the latest AAUW Texas news, and to remind you of important deadlines and special projects. Please take the time to look it over and to share the information with other branch leaders.

The AAUW Texas Board of Directors met this month at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio. It is a beautiful, historic hotel and will be a wonderful setting for our convention. Lynn Smith has arranged for inspiring speakers including Lynn Hickey, UTSA's Director of Athletics and Chief Justice Alma Lopez to address the convention. Mary Ellen Smyth, the Past President of the Educational Foundation will be our guest and will introduce the newest EF research and recognize branch accomplishments. We will celebrate the completion of the Sylvia Newman Giving circle and say "Happy Birthday" to AAUW at a special breakfast event. We will have an opportunity to explore the history of San Antonio and dine on the famous river taxis.

**We have exciting news to report about convention:** As well as a wonderful program with interesting and accomplishes speakers, the delegates will have real decisions to make!

- ▼ When the Nominating presented their report, we learned that here are two nominees for Program VP and Secretary.
- ▼ The Board of Directors has approved the bylaws recommendations from the Restructuring Task Force, so we have several bylaws changes to consider. Details will be included in the spring UWT! and will be posted on the website in early January.

**Plan NOW** for several branch members to come to San Antonio to conduct business, learn about the new directions for AAUW Texas, celebrate and network!  
**Happy Holidays!**

**Patricia Ross**  
AAUW TX President  
281-491-5139  
paross@aol.com

## **Chapter Leader Resource Center**

*Judy Brownlie, Branch Services*

***"Are you tired of hearing about NO time and what's in it for me to be involved? Need to recruit new members? Need volunteers and leaders who will step up for action?"***

Those are the opening words of Cynthia D'Amour's Chapter Leader Resource Center for Developing Leaders and Facilitating Growth found at <http://www.chapterleaders.com/>. Ms. D'Amour offers tips on a variety of leadership issues that many organizations are currently facing including member involvement, attracting younger members, and dealing with difficult people (Challenge the Challenger). Check out this informative site recommended as an AAUW leader and membership tool during the recent AAUW branch teleseminar on membership offered to branches that sent 3 or more members to the 2005 Association convention.

## **Come to San Antonio!!!!**

### **AAUW/TEXAS 2006 CONVENTION**

San Antonio captures the spirit of Texas and this is an opportunity for AAUW to be part of the excitement. Our State convention will be at the St. Anthony – an historic Wyndham Hotel in downtown San Antonio, conveniently located to all the sights. Each room at the St. Anthony is decorated with beautiful antiques and four poster beds.

Friday night's opening session will feature our exceptional Keynote Speaker, Lynn Hickey. Lynn is the Athletic Director of UTSA, and under her leadership over the last five years, UTSA has captured a Southland Conference All Sports Championship while consistently winning both team and individual awards in all 14 sports sponsored by UTSA. Following the business meeting we will Meet the Candidates at a reception on the rooftop, overlooking the city.

Saturday at our EF Luncheon, we have the privilege of hearing our National Educational Foundation's past President, Mary Ellen Smyth. She will enlighten us on AAUW's new theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security".

Saturday's afternoon Business Meeting will feature Patricia Castillo. She is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of P.E.A.C.E. (Putting an End to Abuse through Community Efforts). Her organization is a grass roots coalition of 48 community agencies united to develop and take action on a community-wide family violence agenda for San Antonio.

On Sunday morning we have the honor of hearing from Alma Lopez, Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals, and first Hispanic woman Chief Justice in the U.S.

Framing the Workshops will be our Convention Theme, "*Living the Mission*". Some of our interesting workshops are: "AAUW Branch Community Action", "Plight of International Women", "Uncovering the Truth in Political Rhetoric", and "Mentoring the AAUW Way".

Registration information will be included in the next UWT! and will be posted on the AAUW Texas website in January.

**This is a Convention you definitely won't want to miss!!!**

*Lynn Smith, VP Programs*

## **LET'S CELEBRATE!!!!**

**AAUW will have been active for 125 years in 2006. We plan to have a 125th Birthday Party at our convention in San Antonio, May 19-21, 2006 to celebrate. Since women wore hats and dressed more formally in the good old days, we thought it would be fun for us to wear hats and gloves, if you have them, to have some fun and celebrate our foremothers who made AAUW a reality. Talk it up! We can make this a festive event and share looking the part as we look back at our history. Let your branch know that this is only one of fun things planned for convention.**

## **Financial Officer Reminders from Loyce Collenback**

- ▼ The February 1, 2006 Branch membership count determines the number of Branch delegates to the State Convention. To be included, the branch membership dues must be in possession of the state treasurer by this date.
- ▼ Association (as well as state and branch) dues collecting for 2006-2007 begins March 15, 2006. The Association dues amount will at that time increase by \$2 to \$45. This comes as the result of AAUW legislation adopted at the 2003 national convention.

### **AAUW TOOL KITS – Operating Manuals for Branch Officers** *Judy Brownlie, Branch Services*

No AAUW officer has to 'go it alone' or reinvent the wheel! Every branch has at its disposal a library of AAUW Tool Kits. These are the 'operating manuals' that define branch offices and provide training for the job, offer branch management and leadership development assistance, and provide additional sources for help and resources for additional reading. Many of your questions can easily be answered by a tool kit search.

The Branch Finance, Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy Fund, and Membership Tool Kits are available for reference or to download at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). A sample chapter of the Diversity Kit is also provided. To find these tool kits, enter the Member Center. In the left side listing, click on Leader Corner. Tool Kits can be found under the heading, Leadership Tools. These are provided FREE so that every officer in these positions can have an appropriate manual.

The Change Management, Leader, President, and Diversity Tool Kits are available for purchase individually (\$6.50 plus \$9.00 shipping) or as a set (\$19.50 plus \$9.00 shipping) at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Follow Shop AAUW (lower left hand corner) to Branch Necessities/Tool Kits. Be sure to enter your AAUW member number for a 10% discount. The wealth of information these kits can provide far exceeds their cost.

### **Information NEEDED!!**

How does your branch raise money? I am looking for ideas about how to raise money from branches of all sizes. Help me learn about the ways branches across the state raise money. Please send information and a contact name to: Mary DuBoise at [kduboise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kduboise@sbcglobal.net) or call 817-577-3713 or mail to 7921 Kendra Lane, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-1711.

I need this information by January 31. Thanks for your help.

Mary DuBoise, EF-VP

## **Deadline for Branch Donations for Educational Foundation Is December 31**

Donations to EF are done on a calendar year and must be received by Association by December 31, 2005. The donations should be mailed to the Educational Foundation at Association with copies of the form and check(s). These donations will be the figures used to calculate the awards given at the State Convention in May. Thanks for being sure that your branch gets the donation in on time!

If you have any questions, I can be reached at kduboise@sbcglobal.net or 817-577-3713.

I will be out of contact from December 18 until after December 31.

Mary DuBoise  
AAUW Texas EF-VP

### **A Clever Fundraising Idea**

Why not do ONE fundraiser per year, instead of two plus general fund, by doing a "non-event". Send a beautiful invitation inviting the recipient to participate in a non-event:

*You are cordially invited NOT to attend AAUW Some County's Annual Non-event Fundraiser.*

*In lieu of your presence make a donation to help us grow and support the work of AAUW, the Educational Foundation, the Legal Advocacy Fund, scholarships, and the work of AAUW in our local events.*

*The money you save by NOT attending can bring lasting results.*

**Then include a separate card with amounts to select up to \$5,000 with categories like:**

- \$25 gas to get to the Mall (not used)
- \$50 Photo with Santa (not taken)
- \$100 Decorations/Tree (not purchased)
- \$250 refreshments/hors d'oeuvres (not consumed)
- \$500 entertainment (not seen)
- \$1,000 sleigh ride for two in Vermont (not ridden)
- \$5,000 week-long ski vacation in Aspen (not booked)
- other (specify)

**indicate for use in:**

--LAF ---EF ---Branch operations)

(Only donations to EF and LAF are tax deductible unless your branch has separate 501(c) 3 status)

There are lots of possible versions of this idea. Busy people love it, as do partners who hate gala events. Be **very** clear that there is NO event to attend. The only costs are for invitations and mailing. Tyler has hosted a very successful Phantom Ball which is another version of this creative idea.

*Cindy Jones, Polk County AAUW*

### **Bright Idea**

Fort Bend County AAUW has announced a contest offering the member who recruits the most new members a free registration to the AAUW TX Convention in San Antonio.

## BRANCH SALES MADE EASY AT CONVENTION!!!

Plan to sell something for EF, LAF or a community project at our Texas AAUW Convention in San Antonio, May 19-21, 2006. It will only cost \$10 for half a table and \$20 for a full table. You have some time to plan something fun to sell for your branch fund raising. State EF will be conducting a silent auction and LAF will be selling Sylvia Newman's collection of pins...details to follow.

### LAF UPDATE.....

Wow! Great news! We are over 3/4<sup>th</sup> toward our goal for the Sylvia Newman Giving Circle. Thank you for the great support of LAF and the important mission.

\*\*\*\* Just a reminder that the calendar year for LAF is January to December. All funds should be sent in by year-end. Since I will be in Minnesota with family from Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> until the end of the year, please send the money and contribution form (download from [www.AAUWTEXAS.com](http://www.AAUWTEXAS.com)) to fund #3095, Sylvia Newman Giving Circle, and mail directly to AAUW Association, 1111 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 and copy me at 7600 Cat Tail Cove, Austin, TX 78750. Or you can just send me a note at [veronicajj@aol.com](mailto:veronicajj@aol.com) with the dollar amount of the contribution for your branch and give me the name and address of any person who gave more than \$100, so I can send them the quilt pin. Remember that the Sylvia Newman Giving Circle presentation is still out on the web site to use in branch meetings or fund raising events. There is also a flyer that can be printed.

\*\*\*\* Reminder that individual checks written to LAF should not be put into the branch account. So our members can have a tax deduction for this 501C3 fund, the checks can't be co mingled with branch general fund money. If you have any questions, email or call Veronica Johnson, 512-338-1254.

## AAUW Texas STAR AWARDS

You can share the work of applying for the new AAUW Texas Star Awards by assigning different board members to handle each section. Your branch can apply to be recognized in all categories or in just a few. It is up to **YOU!**

The application was included in the last Link and is posted on the AAUW Texas webpage,

## AAUW TX Represented at Texas Conference for Women

On October 20, 2005 Pat Ross (AAUW TX President), and I staffed an AAUW TX booth at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Texas Conference for Women in Austin sponsored by Governor Rick and Anita Perry.

During the 10 hours we were there, we had substantive conversations about AAUW with 100+ women and men who stopped by the booth. Of those who visited us, a disproportionate number were of the younger generations and of ethnic minorities. They were so excited about our mission and our work around the state, and all expressed an interest in becoming a part of our organization. When we discussed dues, we heard comments such as "Wow, that's the cheapest dues I've seen from any organization"!

The message here is that our mission is relevant for today and there are lots of people interested in our organization. Our challenge is to make our branches' volunteer opportunities relevant to these people. Beginning in this issue of *the link*, I will be sharing some tips for communicating your branch's mission, culture and actions to the public; and for examining its attitude, programming, and handling of volunteer opportunities. I would love to hear from you if you have some ideas I can add to my list.

Because equity is still an issue,

Linda B. Conger  
AAUW TX Membership Vice President

P. S. As an added bonus to our time spent at the Texas Conference for Women, we had the privilege of hearing Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson, and Maya Angelou!

## Tip for Examining Your Branch's Attitude Toward Potential Members

Engage a "secret shopper" to attend a meeting as a potential member and then share her experience with the board. For example: How was she welcomed? How was she sold on membership in the branch? How long did it take to get a return call on an inquiry?

## Tips for Communicating Positive Things About Your Branch's Mission, Culture, and Actions:

1. Participate in community activities
  - a. Drive a care or float in local parades
  - b. Staff a table or booth at local festivals
  - c. Recognize the "Outstanding Female Community Leader"
2. Be visible in local libraries
  - a. Reserve a bulletin board for the month prior to your major project or fundraiser to display general AAUW information as well as information about the event.
  - b. Have membership brochures available
  - c. Donate books in honor of speakers and/or outstanding branch members
  - d. Volunteer to read to children or seniors
  - e. Host "Book and Author" sessions
  - f. Hold board meetings at the library
  - g. Hold book group meetings at the library
  - h. Recognize librarians on National Librarians Week (or day? Or month? Whatever it is!)
3. Build coalitions with organizations in the community
  - a. Search out non-traditional opportunities for a coalition
  - b. Co-sponsor events at every opportunity
  - c. Offer speakers from your branch to present programs to other organizations
  - d. Invite members of other organizations to speak to your branch meetings
4. Evaluate your branch newsletter
  - a. Does it look professional?
  - b. Is it upbeat, interesting, welcoming?
  - c. Does it encourage new members to get involved?
  - d. Does it include contact information for those who might have questions?
  - e. Does it include directions to the next event?

Look for more tips in the next issue of ***the link!***

## **Request for nominees: 2006 AAUW TEXAS Outstanding Member**

The American Association of University Women—Texas will honor an AAUW—TX member as Outstanding Member at the 2006 state convention in San Antonio.

The nominee should be a member who has helped shape AAUW—TX or The State of Texas. The nominee must be living, a member of AAUW, a legal resident of Texas, and willing to attend the 2006 AAUW TX Convention in San Antonio, May 19 - 21, 2006. The winner will be selected on the basis of lasting contribution or achievements which have had a positive and significant impact on AAUW—TX or The State of Texas.

Selection criteria include:

1. Lasting contributions to AAUW—TX or The State of Texas that demonstrate "positive societal change"
2. Demonstrated leadership qualities
3. Proven role model or mentor
4. Demonstrated ability to work effectively with others in the private and public sectors to carry out the AAUW mission

Nominations should be accompanied by documentation describing:

1. Specific contributions and achievements, citing sources and awards
2. Examples of leadership and mentoring
3. Evidence of cooperative and effective work with others to carry out the AAUW mission

Please send completed nominations, to be received no later than January 31, 2006 to:

**Linda B. Conger**  
**AAUW TX Membership VP**  
**P. O. Box 4411**  
**Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657- 4411**

### **Past Recipients:**

- 1992 Dr. Nadine Barlow, Clear Lake City
- 1994 Lynn Solomon, Nacogdoches Branch
- 1996 Virginia Mann, McAllen Branch
- 1998 Helen Oujesky, San Antonio Branch
- 2002 Betty Anderson, Lubbock Branch
- 2004 Alice W. Church, Houston Branch

## **Request for nominees: 2006 AAUW TEXAS Outstanding NEW Member**

The American Association of University Women—Texas will honor its second AAUW—TX Outstanding New Member at the 2006 state convention in San Antonio.

The nominee must be a member of AAUW for fewer than 2 years, a legal resident of Texas, and willing to attend the 2006 AAUW Texas Convention in San Antonio, May 19 - 21, 2006. The winner will be selected on the basis of innovative and positive contributions which have had a positive and significant impact on a local branch of AAUW—TX.

Selection criteria include:

1. High level of involvement in at least one branch community service project;
2. Demonstrated high enthusiasm for AAUW as an organization (e.g., bringing guests/additional members, volunteering for projects, suggestions on strengthening the branch);
3. Attendance at some Association/Regional/State/Interbranch conference or training;
4. Attendance at branch meetings/functions; and
5. Holding an office of responsibility in the branch.

Nominations should be accompanied by documentation describing:

1. Specific contributions and achievements, citing sources and awards
2. Examples of leadership and mentoring
3. Evidence of cooperative and effective work with others to carry out the AAUW mission

Please send completed nominations, to be received no later than January 31, 2006, to:

**Linda B. Conger**  
**AAUW TX Membership VP**  
**P. O. Box 4411**  
**Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657- 4411**  
**lbconger@earthlink.net**

### **Past recipients:**

- Alejandra Zambada Lazcano, Plano/Collin County Branch

## **On-Line Book Chat Addresses New Program Theme**

Join our second on-line Book Chat. The book is *“Nine Parts of Desire”* by Geraldine Brooks. Brooks is a prize-winning foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal who writes in this book about the hidden world of Islamic Women. The date for our chat is **Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 8:00 P.M.** for one hour. You need to go online to [www.aauw.org/member\\_center/chat](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/chat)

Then log in your membership number.

Encourage your branch to have a meeting on that night. It will be more fun and more discussion. This book ties into our theme of **Education and Economic Security for Women** and how it affects us globally.

## **North Harris County Branch Shares Hints for Successful Community Collaborations**

The North Harris County Branch has worked with the Children's Defense Fund, the League of Women Voters and two school districts in collaborative efforts. Our community outreach committee has helped in the Chip (Children's Health Insurance Program) drives with the CDF who coordinates the events throughout Houston (and probably Texas). We contacted them from a newspaper article. The local director spoke to our committee and then we worked our first project with them. We have since completed a second drive and plan to continue with more drives. Communication between the CDF and committee members has been done mainly via email. It's been an efficient method that has worked well. The CDF staff is very organized and that helps.

The committee has worked with the League in their voter registration drives at naturalization ceremonies. These ceremonies occur about every 4-5 weeks in an Aldine ISD auditorium. Contact was made with the League through the Harris County Tax Office. Again, email is used to contact the League's leading person for this area and AAUW committee members. Again, the League is very organized so that helps. The committee carpools to the event and everything is set up by the League. The committee just provides some manpower.

Lastly the committee became involved in the College for Texas program with 2 local school districts. One of the school districts had been awarded one of our community grants and the project leader for the grant had asked AAUW members to present a program to their Even Start participants. We chose to present materials from the College for Texas program. Three members organized the College for Texas materials for young mothers and their children. The program was very successful. In our branch newsletter, a member who works in the second school district read the community article about the presentation and requested that the committee consider presenting a similar program to some elementary schools in her district. These presentations are being developed at present. The committee members will start presenting at 6 different schools the end of October.

We have found that it's easy to collaborate with other established non-profits or schools. They are usually in need of volunteers and programs.

*Bobbie Lupa, North Harris County AAUW*

## Update your Branch Bylaws NOW!

As you know, delegates at the 2005 Convention voted to include in AAUW membership those with *an associate or equivalent* degree. Since branch bylaws specify membership criteria, this means that **bylaws of all branches** must be updated to reflect this change.

Bringing the branch bylaws into conformity with the *AAUW Charter and Bylaws* after an Association Convention is the responsibility of the branch president. If your branch has a bylaws chair, she can assist or lead this effort.

### What must be done?

1. Amend branch bylaws: In Article V. Membership, Section 1, insert "an associate or equivalent" so that it would read: "Individuals eligible to be admitted to membership are those holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution . . ."
2. Mail one copy of updated branch bylaws to **Margaret Carlson, 13707 Tosca Lane, Houston, TX 77079.**

### By when?

December 31, 2005.

### How is this done?

#### Step #1

Locate and print **Model Branch Bylaws**. These are on the Association website at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

- a) Click on "Member Center" (2nd tab on top)
- b) Click on "Branches and States" along the left side
- c) Click on "Charter and Bylaws"
- d) In body of screen under • AAUW Model Branch Bylaws, click on second line Download the Rich Text Format document of the model bylaws
- e) Click on "Open" and print the file.

#### Step #2

Locate most recent copy of your branch bylaws. Hopefully they are in electronic form. If unable to locate current/electronic copy of branch bylaws, go to Step #4.

#### Step #3

Compare your branch bylaws to **Model Branch Bylaws**. Are your branch bylaws in agreement (by article and section number and specified wording) with **Model Branch Bylaws**? Pay particular attention to ensure precise wording.

**If yes**, Amend branch bylaws as follows: in Article V. Membership, Section 1, insert "an associate or equivalent," before the word "baccalaureate," print and mail copy; task is complete!

**If no**, go to Step #4.

#### Step #4

Use structure of **Model Branch Bylaws** to develop (or update) bylaws for your branch. From the Association website, under • AAUW Model Branch Bylaws, you may choose the first option to "Complete the model bylaws form online." Where options are offered, incorporate your branch practices. Present proposed branch bylaws to general membership at least 30 days prior to meeting. Then at a general membership meeting, have bylaws approved by a two-thirds of those present and voting. Mail copy as noted above.

### **If branch bylaws already agree with Model Branch Bylaws, must the general membership vote to change the branch bylaws for the new membership criteria?**

No. Mandated (e.g., as result of action at Association Convention) amendments need no vote by the branch membership -- unless your branch is incorporated. In that case, the process in the articles of incorporation should be followed.

### **May I use this opportunity to make other changes to my branch bylaws?**

This is a good opportunity for other updating of branch bylaws. For example, you might want to add the capability for electronic voting between board meetings. If you undertake this, follow your existing bylaws for procedure to amend by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a general membership meeting provided written notice has been given to every member at the time specified prior to the meeting.

### **What else?**

Retain one copy of the branch bylaws to mail to Association when the branch receives the Annual Notice of election to Participate in AAUW's Group Exemption. This notice will come to all branches in early 2006 and will be due **March 1, 2006**, along with a copy of your branch bylaws.

### **What if my branch cannot get this completed by the December 31 deadline?**

Do the best you can. At least get started with the process. Some steps will take time and work on your part. Also, we are fast approaching the holiday season when your branch may not have "general membership meetings." However, this must be completed by your branch Annual Meeting next spring and definitely by the AAUW Texas Convention in May 2006.

### **Questions???**

Call **Margaret Carlson, AAUW TX Bylaws Chair. Phone (day): 713-656-8638; (evening): 713-464-0269.**

## **Changes to Association Bylaws Adopted During the 2005 Convention**

1. *Elect all Association At-Large Directors:* the membership will elect all five directors-at-large.
2. *Eligibility Requirements for Membership:* opened membership to graduates holding an associate or equivalent degree.
3. *Membership and Dues:* branch members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues and proposed amount at least three [formerly six] months prior to Association convention.
4. *Regional Director Vacancy:* a vacancy in the position of regional director shall be filled by the presidents of the states in the affected region.
5. *Remove References to Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) President and Board:* references to the LAF president and board will be removed from the Association's bylaws to reflect the merger of LAF with the Educational Foundation. [Note: This does NOT require states or branches to change their bylaws.]
6. *Electronic Voting:* allow for electronic voting between board and executive committee meetings.
7. *Leadership and Training Institute:* add leadership responsibilities for the Institute to the Association's bylaws.
8. *Assets of Disbanded Branches:* allow for the assets of a dissolved branch to be transferred and delivered to an AAUW entity.
9. *IFUW Member Reciprocity:* The opportunity for IFUW members to attend AAUW branch meetings remains in effect, but is moved from Article XX (International Federation of University Women, Section 2, Reciprocity) to Article XII (Section 3, Branches).

## **National Officers Elected for 2005-2007**

**Association President:** Ruth Sweetser (Illinois)

**Executive Vice President/Secretary:** Ann Terry (South Carolina)

**Co-Finance Vice Presidents:** Linda Bors (Nebraska) and Sally Little (Hawaii)

**Association Directors-at-Large:** Betty Bayless (South Carolina), Diana Campo (Oklahoma), Terri Griffiths (Minnesota), Ronni Nivala (Wisconsin), and Krys Wulff (California)

### **Regional Directors:**

Alicia Hetman (California); Pam Thiel (Great Lakes); Linda Haigh Tozier (Middle Atlantic); Alice Bartelt (Mountain Pacific); Marcelline Barron (New England); Lidia Avila (Rocky Mountain); Leslie Henderson (South Atlantic); Eileen deHaro (Southeast Central); Shirley Breeze (Southwest Central); and Florine Swanson (Upper Midwest).

### **Committee Chairs:**

Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi (International Affairs);

Ann Gustafson (Membership);

Mary Homan (Program Development);

and Elaine Hughes (Public Policy).

### **Education Foundation President:**

Barbara O'Connor (Florida)

### **EF Program Vice President:**

Darleana McHenry (California)

### **EF Development Vice President:**

Judy Horan (California)

**EF Secretary:** Joanne Stern (Joanne Stern)

**EF Directors-at-Large:** Sally Chamberlain (Pennsylvania), Faye Dykstra (Kentucky), and Neola Waller (Virginia)

## AAUW Louisiana Library Project

Our AAUW friends around the country have asked how they can help in the hurricane recovery. In response to their concern, AAUW Louisiana has developed the “AAUW Louisiana Library Project”. We thought that a project to assist the public libraries damaged by the storm to rebuild their book collections would be consistent with the AAUW emphasis on education. About 15–20 public libraries have been damaged or destroyed. The project was developed in consultation with Rebecca L. Hamilton, State Librarian of Louisiana.

Here is what you can do:

1. **Money for Books:** The best way we can help libraries is with money to buy new books. They need up-to-date books with library bindings, and these have to be purchased. Branches can have fundraisers or bundle private contributions. The money will be funneled through the Louisiana Library Foundation, a 501(c) charitable organization. The Foundation will give the money directly to the libraries that need help without politics or red tape. Identify your contribution as coming from your AAUW group and state that your gift is for libraries damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Make checks payable to:

Louisiana Library Foundation  
PO Box 2583  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

2. **Send New or Used Books:** The affected libraries can only accept limited numbers of used books. If a AAUW group is interested in collecting and shipping books, they should contact the State Library of Louisiana: Diane M. Brown, Deputy State Librarian ([dbrown@state.lib.la.us](mailto:dbrown@state.lib.la.us)). The State Library will help you partner with a specific library, and you will ship your books directly to that library.

Acceptable books include:

New or nearly new fiction and non-fiction (no mildew!)  
Recent best sellers  
Children’s books in good condition, especially Caldecott and Newberry Award winners

When you send your checks or books, please let AAUW Louisiana know:

Anne K. Taylor, State President, AAUW Louisiana  
[Akt1208@bellsouth.net](mailto:Akt1208@bellsouth.net)  
225-767-3565

## Rebuild Mississippi Libraries

AAUW Mississippi has joined with Friends of the Library (a 501(c) 3 entity) in an effort to rebuild the libraries on the Gulf Coast. It has been determined that the best way to help the libraries is with money to rebuild and restore collections. Money sent to this project will be tax deductible. Checks should be sent to Am South Bank, 210 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, MS 39201. The checks should be made payable to “Rebuild MS Libraries.” It would help if you would note on the memo line that the contribution is coming from an AAUW member. If you wish please send an e-mail that a check has been sent to [ehfisher@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehfisher@bellsouth.net)

The devastation on the Gulf Coast is still quite severe, and many of our members are still struggling to survive the day-to-day activities. It will be at least a year before the libraries affected will be operational.

Currently, there is no way for libraries to store books. Please send them to this address for delivery when appropriate: Martha Fisher, Mississippi State President, 1497 Northlake Drive, Jackson, MS 39211.



September 30, 2005

Patricia Ross  
State President  
AAUW Texas  
4218 Saint Ives Street  
Sugar Land, TX 77479-2953

Dear Pat:

On behalf of AAUW and Educational Foundation Boards, national, state, and local leaders, membership and staff, we express our sincere concern for you, Texas branches and members who have been affected, directly and indirectly, by Hurricane Rita. Our thoughts are with members who have experienced losses – including family and friends who have lost homes, property, businesses and places of employment. Our hearts are particularly sensitive to the impact on women and children, who will be especially affected by this natural disaster.

To date, AAUW has been actively engaged in public policy and advocacy efforts to insure that the federal government's emergency relief and legislative actions are focused upon rebuilding communities and responding to the education, health care, and financial needs of the Hurricane Katrina victims. These efforts have been re-evaluated in light of Hurricane Rita, since both disasters have had tremendous impact upon their respective areas. A special edition of the *Washington Update*, prepared by the AAUW Public Policy & Government Relations Staff, was released following Katrina, which described the key issues on which AAUW will be proactively advocating in the days and weeks ahead (available on-line at AAUW website). AAUW will continue to advocate on behalf of the victims of both Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Upcoming issues of the *Washington Update* will detail the progress of this advocacy work.

Please be assured that we will continue to stay connected through our shared membership – and commitment to the AAUW mission. Although many directly affected by this natural disaster still do not have communication, we welcome and encourage any updates from your local branches as recovery efforts continue. Your efforts to share our message with branches and members in your state are appreciated.

Our thoughts remain with you and the AAUW Texas members.

Sincerely,

Ruth Z. Sweetser, President  
American Association of  
University Women

Barbara L. O'Connor, President  
AAUW Educational Foundation



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