



*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

- ☞ Women's Legislative Days was a wonderful success! Chair, Malinda Gaul and her team provided a terrific program to educate women from many organizations on topics under consideration by the Texas Legislature. Several of these issues are outlined later in the newsletter. New this year was training in lobbying and transportation to the Capitol to visit legislators and let them know about the issues that are important to us. Providing bus transportation allowed everyone to participate and allowed those new to lobbying to team up with those with more experience. A great idea! Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this important event a success!
- ☞ Send in your **21<sup>st</sup> Century Awards Application**. The **deadline is April 20**, but Association has asked for the results by May 1, so the sooner you submit your branch application, the more likely you will be recognized at the AAUW Convention! You can find the application form on the website at [www.aauwtexas.org](http://www.aauwtexas.org) If you do not have computer access, please contact your District Director for a paper copy.
- ☞ Plan to send several branch leaders to the **AAUW Texas Leadership Conference**. It is a GREAT opportunity to learn about new AAUW programs and develop skills which will help you whatever other hats you wear in your life.

Patricia Ross, AAUW Texas President,  
[paross@aol.com](mailto:paross@aol.com), 281- 491- 5139

## Lynette Solomon Fellowship COMPLETED

The Lynette Solomon Fellowship was completed by March 15, 2005 with \$106,070.84. AAUW Texas should celebrate this accomplishment because many branches contributed to this fellowship. The completion of this fellowship is way to honor Lynn who has given so much to AAUW Texas and help women complete their education.

The completion of the Lynette Solomon was a goal for the Texas State Board for 2004-2006. The next fund we will be completing is the Barbara Jordan Fellowship. Please note that if your branch is not supporting a Research and Development Grant that we ask that any funds sent into the Educational Foundation be sent to the Barbara Jordan Fellowship.

Congratulations AAUW Texas on completing the Lynette Solomon Fellowship!!

## **Leadership Conference: Leaders Keep On Learning**

Whether new to AAUW or an experienced member, officer or not, the upcoming Leadership Conference, July 23-24, in Dallas promises valuable information for involvement in AAUW as well as other organizations.

Dr. LaWanna Blount kicks off the Conference with participant examination of personal leadership skills and the development of a plan to acquire workable skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Other all member sessions include 'Partnering with Other Organizations' with Terese Hartwell, executive director of Girls, Incorporated of Greater Houston, and training in the AAUW Texas state project, 'College For Texans.Education.Go Get It.' In addition, attendees will have a choice of three of ten small workshop sessions.

Every branch can send one member at no cost but you'll want to encourage everyone to attend to take advantage of all the presentations that will help **Leaders keep On Learning**. Look for registration information in UWT!

### **Deadline: May1 - Brag Bag & WOW Awards**

The state Leadership Conference, July 23-24, Dallas, offers President Pat Ross the opportunity to open her **Brag Bag** filled with up to 3 great visibility and mission promoting items from each branch. As she pulls them out, your representative can 'brag' while giving the assembly workable ideas to bring home. Send (electronically preferred) your submissions of flyers, advertising, brochures, publicity, projects, coalitions, fundraising, etc. with a brief description that highlight your points of pride to Judy Brownlie by May 1. Three Brag Bag items will be selected to receive **WOW Awards**, recognition for unique ideas that promote AAUW's mission. Look forward to surprise fun awards as well - branch with the most attendees, farthest traveled to attend, and more.

### **State Restructuring Task Force**

State president, Pat Ross, has asked this task force to examine the present governance of AAUW Texas and make recommendations to the board prior to the 2006 state convention. Task force members are asking branches to give input as to what they think works, what does not, what is useless, what they need but aren't getting from the state. The task force also welcomes anyone interested in helping with this project. Most work is being done via email. Send your comments and/or notice of willingness to serve to

**Jackie Littleton, AAUW TX Task Force Chair**  
**4000 Chester Drive, Tyler, TX 75701; 903- 534- 4677; or**  
[jackielit@hotmail.com](mailto:jackielit@hotmail.com)

### **National Equal Pay Day, April 19**

A women must work till this date in 2005 for her salary to equal what a man has made by December 31, 2004. Why not consider writing a letter to the editor about this subject. For more information regarding the pay gap in Texas, please consult **Gains in Learning, Gaps in Earning**, the newest Educational Foundation research. A report focusing on Texas is available at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Many organizations sell cookies on this day, charging women purchasers \$ .76 and men \$1.00 to reflect the disparity in wages according to 2003 reports. Does this sound like an impact-making fundraiser?

## How Do We Raise MONEY?

One of the questions I am asked most often is, "How do we raise money?" In answer to that question, I am beginning a series of articles about how branches can raise money. This first one is from my branch and it is an idea that I think may be used by a branch of any size.

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### Flower Cards by Ellen Roddy, Tarrant County Branch

For the last several years, the Tarrant County Branch has brightened the day for many people while raising between \$2000 and \$3000 for branch philanthropies. Flower Card Certificates are sold for \$20. The buyer visits a designated florist once a month for a year for a free bouquet of fresh flowers. The florist uses their advertising budget for the flowers as they are getting up to 300 customers into their shop every month. The florist does not receive any of the money raised. The Branch commits to sell at least 150 cards and receives \$9 per card. Or, the Branch may commit to sell at least 200 cards and receive \$10 per card. (The rest of the money goes to the company that arranges the sale.) The most cards available are 300. The sale lasts for one month. At the end of that time, all money and unsold cards are returned to the Floral Customer Delivery (FCD) company. The FCD company arranges for the florist and provides the cards and support material. The Fort Worth/ Dallas metroplex representative is Dee Covici (817)501-6973.

The following article is part of an article used in our Branch newsletter to promote the fund raiser.

Flowers feed the soul. Flowers make great gifts. Flowers brighten the day. Flowers cheer the sick. Flowers show you care.

Once again in November and December, we will be selling flower cards for \$20 each. Have fresh flowers in your home or office every month! Get a bouquet of cut flowers each month for a year and help raise money for our Branch. That's only \$1.67 per month.

The offer is good for pickup only and is not valid for 7 days before or on Valentine's, Easter, Mother's Day and Christmas. For an additional \$10 any bouquet can be arranged in a vase.

Our Branch can raise up to \$3000 by selling these cards. Buy one for yourself and several for gifts. Sell cards to coworkers, friends, neighbors and family. Think of people on your Christmas list that this will make a great gift for - teachers, hairdressers, housekeepers... or as stocking stuffers.

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The time to sell the cards is in November and December since the cards are good January to December. Now is the time to start looking for a florist and making the arrangements for next November. Please contact me if you have any questions.

If you have fund raising ideas, please send them to me and I will use them in future articles.

Mary DuBoise, EF-VP,  
[kduboise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kduboise@sbcglobal.net), 817-577-3713

### Named Gift Honorees

Please send a list of your **2004 Named Gift Honorees** to state EF VP, Mary DuBoise, by April 1. [kduboise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kduboise@sbcglobal.net), 817-577-3713 We want to recognize your Named Gift Honorees at the Leadership Conference in July.

## KEEP YOUR PROGRAMMING MISSION- BASED

I have enjoyed so much hearing about programs that you have been having this. We appreciate that you are really trying to be "mission based".

Remember that March is Women's History Month. The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase Consciousness and knowledge of women's history. During this month we remember the contributions of notable and "everyday" women.

I want to share with you some of the outstanding programs our branches are having:

- ☞ Austin Branch for their March meeting is having Marsha Sharp, the Educational Specialist at the LBJ Library and Museum, who will give a history of the U.S. Presidential Library System;
- ☞ Joe Tom Davis, "Texian history teacher, writer, and presenter", will be the speaker at North Harris County Branch. Mr. Davis' topic will be "The Women who influenced General Sam Houston's life".
- ☞ The Ft. Worth Branch is having an unusual program. Dr. Jeff Ferrell, Texas Christian U., will have a program entitled, "Sociologic Implications of Trash", focused on his hobby of going through people's trash and telling what our trash tells about us.
- ☞ The March meeting for West Harris County should be exciting. They will meet at the Indonesian Consulate building and Eka Rumanitha, a member of the branch, will speak on roles, education and lifestyles of the Indonesian women.
- ☞ The Farmers Branch/ Carrollton Branch is keeping with this year's national theme of "Choices for a Changing World", and their meeting will feature Chris Blume, a physical therapist working for TexStar Physical Therapy. She will address issues she sees in the women who come for therapy. This is response to our request to speak on Fitness and Healthy Choices.

**Lynn Smith, VP - Programming**  
409-737-4007, [baystan@ev1.net](mailto:baystan@ev1.net)

## Association Convention, Washington, D.C., June 24- 27

Details are in Outlook or you can find them at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org). Membership change proposals will once again be on the floor - one to allow anyone to become a member, the other to admit Associate degreed graduates. Plan to have your branch represented in order to have your voices heard.

Jehan Safdat and Madeline Albright are among the featured speakers.

The Brookhaven College Student Affiliate group will offer a workshop.

## Keeping In Touch

The Association and AAUW Texas are increasingly relying on email communications and websites to keep members informed and to provide training and branch materials. Make sure the Association and state have the email address of at least one of your branch officers. Also, if you change your e-mail address please make sure you keep us in the loop. The new Association EdEqChange publication is forwarded to all branch presidents for whom Pat Ross has email addresses. If you are not receiving a copy, please send an e-mail to [paross@aol.com](mailto:paross@aol.com)

## **Deadline Was February 1... Have I Received Your Branch's Herstory?**

The American Association of University Women will celebrate 100 years in Texas in 2008. Don't let this birthday pass without your branch being part of the BIG celebration. Preparations must be made now. And your branch is part of the plan. From the 100-year-old branch down to the branch just formed last year or the ones that will come into existence between now and 2008, each branch has a part in the successful telling of our Texas story.

Time to get those 'herstories' to me if you haven't yet! Don't let your branch miss out. This 'herstory' will make a great addition to your yearbook each year, an educational tool for new member orientation, and an exciting part of your website. Your branch also certainly wants to be part of that exciting time at 2008 State Convention when we all remember the very start of each branch of AAUW in Texas!

So far I have 'herstories' from Abilene, Amarillo, Arlington (lots of material but no 2-3 page history), El Paso, Galveston, Georgetown, Huntsville, Kerrville, Lewisville, Lubbock, Mesquite, Montgomery County, Nacogdoches, Northeast Tarrant County, North Harris County, Polk County, Richardson, San Antonio, Southeast Harris County, Tarrant County, Tyler, and Waco (to be expanded). Where's yours? If you are not listed but have sent your history to me, please contact me, so that I may search my files. You may have sent it to my old e-mail address after I moved.

I would love to have these sent as an e-mail or as an attachment in Word; however, e-mail, snail mail, or fax will reach me, but write it soon and be sure to reflect the personality of your unique branch. Digital pictures are great. Please do not send a stack of materials or anything I need to return. There are quite a few branches in Texas, and I want to be sure I include what is most important to you, so please limit your story to at most three pages and write it just the way you would like for it to appear on our state website and in print.

The deadline was long ago. The sooner you get your 2-3 page history to me, the sooner your branch can have its name flashing across the screen on our website marquee.

Nita Hornbeck  
Nhornbeck@aol.com  
217 Bonham Loop  
Georgetown, TX 7862512-869-2268

### **LAF GIVING FOR 2004**

- ☞ **2004 Top Branch Donations:** Austin, \$2596.88; Tarrant County, \$2567; San Antonio Inc., \$2364; North Harris County, \$1298; West Harris County, \$1170; Montgomery County, \$1142.70; Lubbock, \$797; Farmers Branch Carrollton, \$769.50; Tyler, \$760; Kerrville, \$720.
- ☞ **2004 Top Branches Per Capita:** Tarrant County, \$37.20; Montgomery County, \$24.31; Farmers Branch Carrollton, \$17.10, Lubbock, \$15.04; Austin, \$12.49; Richardson, \$12.29; San Antonio Inc., \$11.37; North Harris County, \$10.22; Houston, \$7.41; Abilene, \$6.96.

Thank you and congratulations to our top branches. You can be proud of your work to help fight against sex discrimination in higher education.

## What every branch should have.....

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) remains an important part of the AAUW mission. Every branch should have a person/position dedicated to LAF. Some branches have made it a VP title, while others use the Liaison title, and some branches have no LAF position. The key to keeping the focus on LAF is to have someone on the branch board to carry the message. The LAF will no longer have a separate board of directors at the Association level, however it will be a separate and important fund for each branch to support. Nothing within how LAF works is changing. LAF works through Case Support, Campus Outreach, Referral Network, and Progress in Equity Award. The Sylvia Newman LAF Giving Circle was created in July 2004 to raise \$25,000 over two years to fund Progress in Equity Awards. For more information on this Giving Circle and Sylvia's contributions to AAUW, go to [www.AAUWTexas.org](http://www.AAUWTexas.org). There is a wealth of information to help you support the LAF mission. The financial year for LAF is January 1 to December 31. There are forms on the web site to submit the contributions. The address on the form is the AAUW Association Dev. Office and it is also important to send a copy of that report to our Texas LAF VP. Her address is also on the web site. The form has a space for a fund, the AAUW Texas board is asking that all branches designate Sylvia's LAF Giving Circle, fund # 3095 through July 2006 for all LAF contributions. If no fund is listed on the form with the contribution, the State LAF VP will direct the money to fund #3095. We are looking forward to celebrating completing this fund a little early so we can celebrate at our AAUW State Convention in San Antonio, May 2006. We need your help to do it! If you have any LAF question, pick up the phone and call 512-338-1254 or email [veronicajj@aol.com](mailto:veronicajj@aol.com) to contact our LAF VP, Veronica Johnson.

## Plan For A Successful Transition

Do not let your branch suffer from "Under-the-bed Syndrome". Pass those important resources to those who can use them to accomplish the most for the branch by promoting education and equity for women and girls! . Many new leaders receive stacks of important and extraneous materials all jumbled together. Give your successor a neat, labeled box or binder with all the essential resources to do the job - and all the rest weeded out! Then your successor will be able to carry on the work you have started. Below is a list of resources that should be in the files.

If you are missing any documents, consult the AAUW website to see if they can be downloaded, or call the Helpline (800-821-4364, 10 am-5pm Eastern Time)

- AAUW Charter and Bylaws (2003) with the state and branch bylaws.
- The Branch and AAUW TX Strategic Plans (on the AAUW TX website)
- Branch Board Policies including job descriptions (sample Board descriptions at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org))
- Branch budgets for the last two years
- AAUW Public Policy Program, 2003 -2005
- AAUW position papers and fact sheets on public policy priorities (Available on the website)
- Foundation annual report
- Foundation fellowships and grants brochure
- Directory of fellowship, grant and award recipients (available on website)
- LAF brochure
- Sylvia Newman Giving Circle flyer (On AAUW TX website)
- Membership brochure and application form
- Guidelines for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Recognition Program (on the AAUW Website)
- AAUW Guide to Member resources
- Diversity, Membership, Presidents and Leader Toolkits
- Educational Foundation reports including Women at Work and Under the Microscope, and Gains in Learning Gaps in Earning (Texas Report available on AAUW website)
- Education and Equity: Choices for a Changing World project (available from website)
- A copy of the Affiliates Agreement
- Any other materials which are specific to performing your job in the branch

## **Women's Legislative Days**

### **School Finance**

HB 2, a bill proposed by Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington has passed the House. HB2 changes testing requirements, create a uniform start date for Texas Schools and deliver additional bonuses and mentoring for teachers. It increases funding (about \$1.5 billion annually, according to Rep. Grusendorf). School district administrators are concerned about the expensive mandates included in HB 2, such as teacher bonuses and health insurance. HB 2 increases funding for average school districts by 5 % and guarantees that no school district will get less than a 3% increase. It also provides school districts with different amounts depending on various factors such as how many students they have, how many are special education or bilingual children and how many get free or reduced lunches. Grusendorf says, "the bottom line is that we're trying to design a school finance system that will achieve a more efficient allocation of resources".

### **Vouchers**

Several voucher bills have been filed. HB 12 by Rep. Frank Corte, R- San Antonio, mandates that the six largest school districts in enrollment, Austin, Cypress -Fairbanks, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and Northside, divert local and state funding to a private voucher pilot program.

HB 1263 by Rep. Linda Harper-Brown, R-Irving, Jodi Laubenberg, R-Parker, and Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, would drain money from neighborhood schools to pay tuition at private schools for educationally disadvantaged students in counties with populations over 800,000 or more- Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis.

HB 1445 by Jerry Madden, R-Plano filed a "virtual voucher" bill that would provide publicly -funded virtual school kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade in settings other than public schools.

AAUW Texas is opposed to any voucher program that would take money away from public schools in urban areas and statewide.

State legislators must hear from public school supporters. Please write letters to your state representative and senators.

### **Other Bills**

HB1348 filed by Rep. Todd Smith, R- Euless and Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, legislation that will keep corporate and union money out of our state elections. This is an effort to promote a bipartisan initiative to Clean Up Texas Politics which AAUW Texas supports.

SB 6, a billed by Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, that is planned overhaul of the state agencies that protect children and seniors, from abuse and neglect.

### **Federal Budget**

The proposed Fiscal Year 2006 budget cuts overall education spending. The No Child Left Behind Act ( NCLB) would receive \$12 billion less than was promised. Forty-eight education programs would be eliminated. The burden falls to states and school districts, already facing financial crisis, to implement school and teacher quality programs.

It is easy to send messages to your representatives to urge them to oppose these budget cuts. Go to the AAUW web-site Action network and be a Two-Minute Activist.

**Georgia Kidwell, Public Policy Chair**  
**817- 282- 0712, Grgkdw@yahoo.com**

## Family Violence

Reauthorization of The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) should be a priority for the 2005 Congressional session in Washington. This act improved criminal justice procedures and increased community awareness and responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking across the country. States have passed more than 660 laws to combat domestic violence. Private industry and corporations have created Employee Assistance Programs to help employees facing these crises. Since 1996, the National Domestic Violence hotline has answered over 1 million calls and provided access to translators in 139 languages. Much has been accomplished but there is more to be done. AAUW joins with the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women in urging Congress to reauthorize and expand this vital legal reform.

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) has outlined 11 top priorities for the legislative agenda for the 79<sup>th</sup> session. These include maintaining funds for sexual assault services through preservation of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, amending areas of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Health and Safety Code, the penal code, and the Government code to better respond to victims and to protect those especially vulnerable such as our elderly. Representatives Naishtat, Thompson and Hager and Senators Zaffirini and Wentworth are sponsoring these bills on behalf of women across the state. Go to [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org) for a full reading of these bills.

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) has set the following initiatives, among others, as priorities for the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas legislative session agenda: appropriations to preserve state funding for core emergency family violence services and to maintain funding of \$2.5 million for the biennium for batterers intervention & prevention programs, amending the protective order statute to allow specifically for a minor to be a protected person, amending the list of required evidence for eligibility for unemployment compensation based on domestic violence to make it less burdensome for victims of domestic violence to access and allowing victims of domestic violence to terminate their leases without penalty, provided certain conditions are met.. For a full list of their initiatives go to [www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org).

Karen McKibbin, Montgomery Co

## Recorded Votes

Texas legislators currently record their votes on only a fraction of the legislation passed every session, making it difficult for voters to compare voting records with campaign rhetoric. In fact, Texas is one of fewer than 10 states nationwide where lawmakers don't routinely document their votes at several stages in the legislative process. Votes in Texas that are recorded are available as part of the House and Senate Journals, which are available in many libraries and on the Internet. Three different methods of casting votes are used in the Texas Legislature today.

### 1. Voice Votes

- Popular
- However, there's no way to find how a legislator voted with a voice vote.

### 2. Division Votes

· The Speaker or Lieutenant Governor gavels a measure being debated as either approved or disapproved before the vote is actually recorded.

### 3. The Record Vote

- House members record their votes electronically from their desks.
- In the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate calls the roll and records the vote indicated by each member electronically.
- However, in most cases, lawmakers must request a record vote, which is a deterrent for some.

Those opposed to requiring more recorded votes argue that it would be too costly or too timely to record all votes. Methods of recording votes in other state legislatures beg to differ. Oregon "fingerprints" votes, for example, and South Carolina uses a magnetic swipe card.

To read the May 21, 2005 editorial in the Dallas Morning News and the comments it generated or a previous series of editorials urging lawmakers to routinely record their votes, sign onto DallasNews.com and click on "Let the Sun Shine" on the Opinion page. More than 150 readers called or wrote and were nearly unanimous in their demand for lawmakers to show us how they vote. If you agree, please be sure to contact your legislators. The only to reform the system is if voters demand it. See: Who Represents Me? at [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm).

Diann Sharr, North Harris Co.



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