



the link

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A Publication for Texas Branch Leaders

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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.

- Live the Mission in San Antonio -

Branch Leaders!! Please encourage as many of your members as possible to come to our State Convention in San Antonio, May 19-21 at the St. Anthony Hotel.

There will be "Mission Based" workshops designed to provide our members knowledge and tools to take back to the branches. Twelve workshops will be presented in three sessions. We will explore topics facing women and girls.

Since UWT! went to print, we have learned that both Michele Wetherald, AAUW Executive Director and Meghan Kissell from the Public Policy Department will be joining us. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about AAUW at both the state and national levels and to get many of your questions answered.

You can find your Registration form in the winter UWT or go online, www.aauxtexas.org. Remember, having a roommate at this beautiful hotel only costs each of you \$50.00 per night.

Also, as you are transitioning from old to new boards, remember our new theme from Association, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security".

This new theme represents a shared commitment by both the AAUW Education Foundation Board and the Association Board, to build AAUW programs that will serve the mission of AAUW. You will learn a lot more about our new theme at the convention.

Please join us in San Antonio as we experience "Living the Mission".

FLOAT ON THE RIVER AND SUPPORT LAF

Our LAF fund raising event at convention is dinner on those fun boats that cruise along the Riverwalk. Be sure to sign up on your registration form and plan to join us on Saturday evening to celebrate another year of support of this most important fund!

The latest LAF Plaintiff, Beverly Nash, will join us at convention, speaking at a business session about her case against Southern University at Shreveport, for retaliation in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. She has a most interesting story to share.

We will be recognizing the branches in Top Ten Total Contributions and Per Capita Giving for 2004 & 2005, as well as celebrating our total giving to the Sylvia Newman Giving Circle.

The exciting news is that Michelle Wetherald, who is the current AAUW Executive Director and was also part of the LAF staff, will be joining us at convention for a number of special messages, including a workshop sharing how development and fund raising works at the Association level, and what that means for your branch messages. She will be helping us celebrate the recognition of Sylvia

Newman's passion for AAUW and the honor we placed on Sylvia's life of giving with the completion of the LAF Sylvia Newman Giving Circle. Join in the celebrating!

"Sylvia Newman's family donated Sylvia's AAUW pins back to AAUW. To have some fun and view them, plus the opportunity for them to be used and live on, we are doing a silent auction with the pins for LAF. Join in the celebrating of Sylvia's life and dedication to AAUW by bidding on the pins and sharing Sylvia stories."

Texas Health Care by the Numbers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, Texas has one of the "worst records" of preventative health care for women in the entire nation. Here are few of the low-lights:

- Texas ranks No. 52 among the states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for the number of women who have health insurance coverage.
- Texas ranks No. 49 among the states for the number of women who have had a mammogram (important in diagnosing breast cancer) in the past two years.
- Texas ranks No. 46 among the states for the number of women who have had a pap smear (crucial for diagnosing cervical cancer) in the past three years.
- Texas ranks No. 5 in the number of teen pregnancies.*
- Texas ranks No. 2 in the number of babies born to teen mothers.*

Sources: August 2004 CDC report based on stats for the years 2000-2002 and *February 2004 data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute

Plan NOW to Transition Smoothly

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 (2005) 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)
- Branch budgets for the last two years
- AAUW Public Policy Program, 2005 -2007
- 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
- Membership brochure and application form
- Guidelines for the Texas STAR program (on the AAUW Texas 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)
- Resources for the new program theme: Education as a Gateway to Women's Economic Success (on AAUW website)
- A copy of the Affiliates Agreement
- Any other materials which are specific to performing your job in the branch
- The Branch Officers Form is attached to this issue of the Link. The deadline is June 1! Please send one copy to me at paross@aol.com, one copy to Association and one copy to the AAUW Texas PO **Box**.

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You should be receiving a Branch Dues Report in May. Branch Dues are due July 1

Branch Highlights

Grand Prairie AAUW Recognized by Soroptimist International

The award reads, "Grand Prairie Soroptimist International Women Helping Women Presented to Sue Crumpton, March 31, 2005."

Grand Prairie AAUW hosts a college awareness seminar called "Yes You Can! Go to College". We have grown from 30 girls in attendance to 60. We target capable young women from local schools who hopefully will be first-generation college attendees.

The young ladies are encouraged to take college prep classes and are shown ways they can finance their higher education. It is a fast paced and fun event as well as being helpful to widening their view of their own potentials.

Sorry to go on....but it is a labor of love for our little branch. Sue Crumpton, AAUW, Grand Prairie Branch

Women in Science Career Forum: Recipe for a Simple, Effective Event

Take one new member of the Montgomery County, TX Branch who works for a local scientific company, add one member who is a professor of chemistry at Rice University, add a sprinkling of support from a liaison for the Montgomery College, and three other very-part time Branch members, and what do you get? Over 100 high school young women and men, and many parents, attending the fourth annual Women in Science Career Forum, held this January 24th from 7-9 pm at the Montgomery College. Co-sponsors were the Montgomery College Department of Natural Sciences and Health Professions, and AAUW Montgomery County Branch. This was the first year that Montgomery County Branch participated ~ Pat Crowder, Athena Squyres, Cindy Jones, Mary McHale, Claire Gelfman, Karen McKibben, Rosa Thompson and Ann Upham.

Why was the recipe so successful? Women in science from many different fields recognize the under-representation of women, and many of them are willing to help stage such events to encourage high school-aged young people in the field. Add to this the

dedication of Claire Gelfman of Lexicon Genetics, new AAUW member, and her work associate Margaret Allen, plus chemistry professor Mary McHale of Rice University who has a long history of spearheading both formalized and informal education about chemistry careers to young people. These three people contacted many potential panelists and exhibitors for the event, while the other members performed public relations and administrative duties.

Other success factors included the format of the event. After registration at the Montgomery College, staffed by Branch volunteers and other college helpers who applied to participate in the event, it began with a panel of four young women with careers in science. Fields represented were ob-gyn doctor, chiropractor, professor of biomedical engineering, and research pharmacist. Each spoke briefly to the assembled audience on the real-world trials and rewards of the discovery of their career and the issues they face in those careers. Then, the group adjourned to an adjacent building at the Montgomery College, where round tables with placards denoting about 35 different women exhibitors in differing fields, could interact individually with students and their parents.

The event had record publicity for an event of its type with notices to all area newspapers and a full-page article in one of these; flyers to all 4 county libraries, notice to all staff at the Montgomery College and on their monitors throughout the grounds, event mention in The Woodlands Magazine and in The Village newspaper in The Woodlands; emails to all area high schools and their science academies with followup phone and in-person conversations, and promotion to Rice University faculty. Most of the publicity was done by email, and in the case of the libraries, dropping flyers to one branch to be "pony-expressed" to the other branches.

Lexicon Genetics sponsored the teal-colored AAUW plastic wristbands with message "because equity is still an issue", Cindy Jones sponsored the food, water and photocopying costs, and pens and notepads were sponsored by Pfizer.Inc.

And the icing on this recipe? 8-10 potential new members to the AAUW Branch, and enthusiastic response to the exhibitor survey to participate next year. Participant surveys indicated strong enthusiasm, as well, and will lead to a volunteer email mentoring program following the event next year.

North Harris County Registers New Citizens

Five branch members participated in a voter registration drive on Wednesday, March 29, at the new citizen's induction ceremony. Over 2000 immigrants became new citizens. In coordination with the League of Women Voters and the Northwest Forest Republican Women's club, North Harris County branch members accepted 108 voter registration applications and handed out well over that number to those wishing to mail in their forms. Judy Brownlie registered the most new citizens; she accepted 51 applications! Kay Fenwick, Carol Ryan, Sue Ann Lurcott and Bobbie Lupa participated as well.

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