



*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.*

## **From the President, Linda Conger:**

At the Conference for State Leaders in June, I attended a "Nuts & Bolts" session for presidents. Following is an excerpt from the session's handout:

### **1. AAUW CORPORATE CULTURE**

- a. Familiarize yourself with the AAUW website, [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) – especially the Member Center.
- b. Learn the structure of AAUW: Association, Educational Foundation, Leadership Training Institute, IFUW. Know the goals and resources of each.
- c. Know where to find the AAUW calendar for deadlines and events, [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/member\\_events/calendar.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/member_events/calendar.cfm).
- d. Visit the Leader Corner monthly for updates and coming events, [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/index.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/index.cfm)
- e. Familiarize yourself with the AAUW TX website, [www.aauwtexas.org](http://www.aauwtexas.org).

### **2. USING TECHNOLOGY AS YOUR PARTNER**

- a. Set up e-mail group lists in your e-mail software using your address book. Create a list of your board, your membership, and the presidents in your district.
- b. Make folders within the inbox to file incoming e-mail: e.g., other branches, state, Association, convention/meetings, special projects, newsletter, website. The more precise the file name, the easier to find all those filed messages!
- c. Investigate the possibility of using conference calling or chat rooms in place of some of your Board meetings.

### **3. GETTING ORGANIZED**

- a. Read your job description! If your branch doesn't have job descriptions for its Board members, you should develop a set. Sample descriptions can be found at [http://www.aauw.org/member\\_center/leader\\_corner/nsb\\_positiondescriptions.cfm](http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/nsb_positiondescriptions.cfm).
- b. Paper control: use a designated area in your home for AAUW papers. Use baskets, file boxes, color-coded folders or any system that works for you. Clean out old files. Remember you'll be creating records to pass to your lucky successor!
- c. Time management – organize, prioritize, communicate, delegate tasks, take breaks.
- d. Create a "grab and go" file with your business cards, calendar, branch directory, branch brochures and newsletters, membership information, public policy brochures, recent EF research, AAUW and state news.

### **4. PLANNING EFFECTIVE MEETINGS. Bored board? Tired team? Shake them up by doing things better!**

- a. Have an agenda for your meetings. Have your officers notify you if they want to be on the agenda – don't just call on everyone on your Board. If a person is called upon, she feels obligated to talk!
- b. Keep your Board meetings to one hour or less. Let your Board members know that you will not be wasting their time.
- c. Know your branch bylaws and policies! Even though you may have a bylaws chair and/or parliamentarian, the board will look to you as the expert.
- d. Consider eliminating the business portion of your general membership meetings. If you MUST have one, schedule it after the program. This gives visitors an opportunity to leave if they wish.

### **5. SURVIVING THE BUMPS IN THE ROAD**

- a. We are all volunteers and nobody is perfect. Try to see all perspectives and remember that your challenge is to help your branch translate AAUW's mission into action.
- b. Resources: your district representative, presidents of other branches, your state president, past branch and/or state presidents, college/university partners, professional experts (accountants, attorneys, community leaders, educators, government agencies)
- c. Remember that AAUW work can be fulfilling, educational and enjoyable. Don't neglect your personal and professional priorities. Draw on your unique talents and experiences and do the best you can with the time you have.

## From the Membership Vice President, Priscilla Mowinkel

Excitement and anticipation are the two words that best describe the emotions that I feel as AAUW propels toward our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007 and Texas's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008. Growth is the state membership committee's goal for the next two years and we will be developing innovative methods to achieve growth in membership. Fortunately, some outstanding women have agreed to serve AAUW TX as **working** members of the state membership committee. They will be working together to develop membership activities to implement AAUW TX and Association strategic plans and assist in new branch and interbranch council formation. Committee members are

- Priscilla Mowinkel – AAUW TX Membership VP (Chair)
- AAUW TX Branch Services Officer – June Hill of Tarrant County;
- District Representatives:
  - Central TX – Anna Montague of Kerrville;
  - North Texas – Janet Peavler of Denton, Margie Poole of NE Tarrant Co and Elaine Wells of Tyler;
  - West TX – Dusky Wells, Abilene;
  - South TX – Remi Willoughby of West Harris Co. and Melba Zaremba of McAllen;
- New Branch Development Advisors – Pat Ross of Fort Bend and Jackie Littleton of Tyler;
- Corporate Branch Development Advisor – Veronica Johnson of Austin;
- Student Affiliate Development Advisors – Delryn Fleming on sabbatical from Brookhaven College and Sue Little of North Harris College; and
- On-line branch development Advisor – Margo Johnson of Fort Bend.

Working as support for the committee will be Lane Powell, Program VP TX of Lubbock and Linda Dobbs Willis, State Publicity Chair, of Tarrant Co. We are still looking for a University/College Rep. Any recommendations would be welcome.

During the July 21 State board meeting, I reported the following membership information for 2005-2006.

- Texas had 54 listed branches of which only 48 were active
- There were 2490 Texas AAUW State and branch members
- There was a - 2.54 rate of change in membership
- There were 78 50-year members)
- There were 155 life members
- There were 324 new members
- There was a total of 1556 Members At Large (MAL) of which only 10 belonged to AAUW Texas

Important state membership information that I dispatch to the branch membership vice presidents will also be copied to the branch presidents. Should you do not wish to be copied important membership info please notify me at [pamowinkel@comcast.net](mailto:pamowinkel@comcast.net).

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## Educational Foundation Vice President, Mary DuBoise

Many branches are in the process planning fundraisers for the Education Foundation. Please remember that all funds **must be received by Association by January 10, 2007** to be counted for the 2006 year for awards and reorganization from Association and Texas. Why not beat the holiday rush and send your branch's money in the beginning of November or as soon as you raise the money? This will help the staff at Association and be one less thing to do during the hectic holiday season.

If your branch is not currently supporting a Research and Development Grant or a Fellowship, the AAUW Board of Texas is asking that all contributions be sent to the Barbara Jordan Fellowship. The Barbara Jordan Fellowship number is 4115.

If members are giving a **personal check** and want to use the amount as a **charity donation** for 2006, the check must be cashed by Association in **December, 2006**. Checks for **EF should not be cashed by local branches** but should be sent to Association. Checks for individual donations should be made out to AAUW-EF.

**Please do not send check to me. Please do copy me on all correspondence with Association.** I will be traveling at the end of the year and will not be home to forward correspondence.

If you have any questions about EF, fundraising ideas, or grant/fellowship applications, please contact me, 817-577-3713 or [mary.duboise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mary.duboise@sbcglobal.net).

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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Miriam Tormollan has resigned as the AAUW TX Administrator and the AAUW TX Board voted to note replace her. Therefore you can take the AAUW TX Administrator off the mailing list for your branch newsletter. Send dues information to AAUW TX Finance Officer, Margaret K. Bentley, 1420 Daventry Dr., DeSoto, TX 75115.

## From the Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President, Marietta Hostak

You did it Texas! The Sylvia Newman Giving Circle was completed this July with total contributions of \$32,108.75. That is 28% over our goal of \$25,000. This will allow us to fund three Progress in Equity awards! Thank you for your wonderful support.

Remember, the calendar year for LAF is January to December. Therefore all of your LAF funds for this calendar year must be sent in by December 31. Please complete the contribution form which I sent you earlier this fall and which you can also download from [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org), and mail it directly to AAUW Association, 1111 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Be sure to make a copy for your own records and also send one to Marietta Hostak, 12510 Shepherds Ridge Dr., Houston, TX 77077. You will find on the instruction sheet for the contribution form the numbers for the LAF funds; 3999 is for General Unrestricted LAF Support, 3072 for Plaintiff Travel Grants, 3087 for the Progress in Equity Awards, and 3500 for the Campus Outreach Program. Your branch may wish to specify which fund they desire to support.

**Remember:** individual checks written to LAF should not be put into the branch account but forwarded directly to Washington with a contribution report form.

If you have any questions please e-mail me at [mhostak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhostak@sbcglobal.net) or phone at 281-497-5858.

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## From the Public Policy Officer, Georgia Kidwell:

Please mark your calendars for January 28-30, 2007 for the Women's Legislative Days. Sunday night is the opening reception; there are workshops all day Monday, with the Women's Political Caucus Roast Monday evening; and more workshops on Tuesday morning. This is an AAUW Texas-sponsored event and we hope to have good attendance from our branches. More information will follow.

I hope all of you are busy doing election activities. It is important to get women out to vote in this election – Texas ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the percentage of registered women who vote; 43<sup>rd</sup> in the percentage of eligible women who are registered to vote! The State Legislature will be considering many issues that are important to us: e.g., vouchers, recorded voters, CHIP reforms, campaign finance reform and school finance. As you talk to candidates let them know what you are interested in and that you will be watching what will be going during the session.

Do you have a copy of the presentation, "Uncovering the Truth in Political Rhetoric"? Are you using it? This is a great tool to use in your community with other organizations, high school and college groups. I have presented it to several branch meetings and have had lively discussions with the members. Every branch should have a copy but if you can't locate it, please let me know and I'll send you another. Also on the CD: AAUW Programs, Woman to Woman, Woman to Woman.pdf, "Because equity is still an issue" and Directions for Use. Contact Georgia Kidwell, 817-282-0712 or [grgkdw@yahoo.com](mailto:grgkdw@yahoo.com).

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## Establishing a Student Affiliate Branch by Linda Conger

Several branches around the state have developed a student affiliate branch at a local campus. A student affiliate branch is a satellite of an established: i.e., a small group not desiring autonomous branch organization at present but interested in carrying on projects and events as part of an established AAUW branch. There are several very important things to keep in mind if your branch is interested in setting up a student affiliate branch:

1. A student affiliate branch is for undergraduate students only; graduate students have earned their degrees and are eligible for full AAUW memberships.
2. Student affiliate member dues are \$17 for Association, \$1 for AAUW TX, and whatever your branch decided for local dues (most charge \$2 which brings the total dues to \$20).
3. Get a person from the institution to sponsor the branch; it will need to abide by the institution's rules and regulations for formation, naming, and bylaws.
4. A student affiliate branch is not a part of the sponsoring branch as far as activities are concerned. They may volunteer to help your branch if that is their choice.
5. A sponsoring branch is not required to pay the dues of the student members.

If you have any questions about establishing a student affiliate group in your community, contact **Sue Little** ([sue.little@nhmccd.edu](mailto:sue.little@nhmccd.edu), [1] 281-370-6808) or Delryn Fleming ([delryn@verizon.net](mailto:delryn@verizon.net)).

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Calendar Now Available!** – The special 16-month commemorative calendar features photographs and images highlighting AAUW's 125-year legacy of leadership. It is available for sale through ShopAAUW for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling. In addition to ordering the calendar for yourself and others, please encourage the promotion and sale of this very special 125th anniversary product among your branch members. Also order soon as the quantity of this special item is limited. To order, ShopAAUW can be accessed from the AAUW website homepage at <http://www.aauw.org> or call ShopAAUW at **800-225-9998**.