

44th AAUW TEXAS CONVENTION

“Thank you for inviting me to the best state convention I've ever been to! And I've been to many...” Carol Rognrud, the Association’s Senior Development Officer, told AAUW members from across Texas who gathered in Houston April 23-25 for the 44th Biennial AAUW Texas Convention, “Opening Opportunities for Girls and Women.” Members of AAUW-Austin who traveled to Houston April 23-25th to serve as Branch delegates were Branch President Inés Garcia, past Branch President Dr. Rosemary Morrow, State Association President Ann Berasley, incoming Branch President Kay Watson, State Association EF-VP Anita Knight, State By-Laws Chair Pam Wolfe, Central District representative to the Texas Association Elizabeth Newell, Legal Advocacy VP Gail Simpler, and Tom Watson, Dr. Sylvia Garcia, and past EF-VP Marsha Endahl Kramer. Pat Rehm, dual member of Austin and Salado branches, also attended, representing Salado.



A “Pearl” theme emphasizes the embodiment of AAUW goals, mission and values that advocate educational and social success for women and girls in our schools, organizations, communities and our country. Criteria for Pearl awards include offering members and the community programs that “PROTECT the legal rights of those facing discrimination, EDUCATES women for a lifetime of success, ADVOCATES for laws that give women a fair chance, RESEARCHES educational and economic barriers and how to break them down, and LEADS and teaches others how to lead.” Under the leadership of past President Rosemary Morrow and current President Inés Garcia, the Austin Branch earned Pearl Awards for both 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Our branch received recognition for raising the second highest amount of funds for the EF (\$3,685.10) and the third highest amount for the LAF (\$1,176.00) for 2010 and was able to designate nine “Named Gifts.” Natalie Balden, Dorothea L. Berasley, Veronica Johnson, Marsha Endahl Kramer, Rosemary Morrow, Judy Reinhart, and Mary Ellen Scribner were the designees. The Honor Roll of Donors included Associates Circle (\$500-\$999) Marsha Endahl Kramer and Friends of AAUW (\$250-\$499) Ethelwyn “Etta” Endahl, Veronica Johnson, and Juanita Painter. Legacy Circle Texas members Veronica Johnson, Anita Knight, and Pam Wolfe were honored at a special reception for creating a planned gift in their estate planning. Leadership from the AAUW-Austin Branch was evident throughout the convention. Completing her term as State Association President, Ann Berasley, conducted all the business meetings and steered the convention agenda throughout with professional ease and attention to detail. Working mother of two young daughters (and daughter of our communications director Dorothea Berasley), her leadership is a source of pride for our Branch, along with that of Pam Wolfe (completing her 21st year on State and Branch boards.) Pam’s preparation of and presentation of the Bylaws revision insured their passage. Elizabeth Newell was reelected to serve as our Central District representative to the Texas Association. She conducted the district meeting where new ideas and plans for future leadership trainings; district, state and national gatherings were discussed, and in which much excitement was generated. Rosemary Morrow was elected Association Texas Secretary/Historian and will serve with the new Board.



State EF Vice President Anita Knight organized a stellar event for the Saturday banquet. The evening educated, inspired, and celebrated the success of AAUW fellowship funds, the largest source of graduate funding outside the university system in the world! A fascinating film on the life of the late Governor Ann Richards whose Fellowship our AAUW-Austin EF donations have helped fund to the tune of \$34,000, was enjoyed by all, and the evening’s highlight was the presentation by Jeanne Goka, principal *extraordinaire* of the Ann Richards School for Young Leaders, a single-sex school that is a

prototype of both public and private funding. Ms. Goka leads the mission to educate young women and give them the confidence and skills necessary to succeed in college, their careers, and in their communities. Leadership is a huge component of the curriculum, along with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).



The weekend was non-stop networking, sharing, listening and learning. Our delegates were often asked to share their expertise in a variety of fields both individually and in groups. Linda Lorelle, an Emmy Award winning TV anchor whose interest in children and education led her to found the Linda Lorelle Scholarship Fund to support Houston area children with average grades from seriously disadvantaged families (\$2.6 million so far for more than 283 students), was a keynote speaker. Suzanne Berman, Austin-based regional field coordinator for CARE, spoke about the AAUW-CARE partnership and its mission to improve basic education; its international humanitarian efforts to fight global

poverty; and its work to expand economic opportunity and increase access to health services in more than sixty-five countries.

Our delegates spread out to attend all the workshops offered throughout the weekend to enable sharing of notes, ideas, handouts and networks. Workshop topics included salary negotiation, leadership training, community outreach through collaborative planning for short term projects, fundraising, how to use social networking tools to reach potential members and to stay connected to other organizations, websites, newsletters, and partnering with universities and colleges.

Despite hearing statistics about the decline of AAUW in both numbers and branches, our delegates were energized and inspired to have their personal belief in this organization reinforced. Carolyn Garfein, National Association President, not only gave a dynamic and moving presentation about the important work of our national organization and cutting edge research, but she also attended the entire convention, facilitated a workshop on the power of strategic publicity and marketing and made herself available to delegates throughout each day to hear concerns, discuss solutions and strategies, and to express appreciation for the many strong volunteer efforts. (She too is a volunteer!)

Our national organization is front and center in Washington with its programs, research, lobbying, and media recognition on the rise once again. Our branches are strong, our program potential is unlimited, and our delegates have already shared the many ideas needed to insure the growth and revitalization of this branch and our state and national affiliation. Our current Austin members are to be congratulated for their long-standing loyalty and support for the AAUW mission, and just as importantly, are recognized for the warm welcome given to newcomers. We were continuously reminded that many organizations are vying for the time, effort, and finances of our members! With your help and your willingness to help spread the good news of our accomplishments, the potential and promise of this more than 125-year legacy and the enormous need we continue to see for efforts to insure equity for women AAUW will be around for a very long time.

Special thanks to our Austin delegates who for the most part paid their own way to the convention. We were few in number, but we knew we were 140 members strong...and had the strength and convictions of the more than a thousand members who have been a part of our branch since it's first meeting. Hats off to our current members of all ages and stages who share in the cause! You were with us in spirit! As Anita Knight reminded us, "It has been said before but bears repeating: We join AAUW for the mission, but we stay for the friends!"



(Principal contributor: Marsha Endahl Kramer; photos by Anita Knight & Marsh Endahl Kramer)

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

The Branch recently learned that the Expanding Your Horizons Network has won the 2010 National Science Board's (NSB) Public Service Award. The award will be presented at a formal ceremony on May 4, 2010 at the US Department of State in Washington, DC. The National Science Board is the twenty-five-member policymaking body for the National Science Foundation and advisory body to the President and Congress on science and engineering issues. The EYH Network was recognized for thirty-four years of service coordinating and implementing Expanding Your Horizons in science and mathematics conferences.



EYH has been in Austin for twenty years with GirlStart managing it for the past four years. The Branch became an EYH partner in 1990, and Raemar Shown has volunteered with EYH for sixteen of its twenty years in Austin. For the 2010 EYH conference held at the University of Texas Teaching Center on April 17, Raemar organized more than twenty volunteers from the Branch to handle registration and to provide support for the managers and presenters of an expanded conference. This year for the first time fourth-grade girls joined fifth and sixth-grade girls in activities planned to expand their horizons in math and science.





LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND – Gail Simpler

Case Support - AAUW has signed an amicus brief for *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*, a case that will be argued before the U. S. Supreme Court. The court will rule whether or not the University of California Hastings College of Law may deny school funding to a religious student organization because the group requires its officers and voting members to agree with its religious viewpoints. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld the university's policy. AAUW joins other amicus signers in supporting the school, the separation of church and state, and religious liberty. You can read the amicus brief of our partner, the Anti-Defamation League.

There are no new updates this month on the five cases LAF currently supports. Learn about their status on the AAUW website.

Online - For the latest LAF news, visit the AAUW website and AAUW Dialog.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to LAF to help balance the scales of justice for women. Make your check out to AAUW Funds and note for LAF. Send it to me—Gail Simpler, 9451 Singing Quail Dr., Austin, TX 78758-6134. I will forward all contributions from branch members to the Association Office with the appropriate paperwork for branch recognition. Please contact me if you have any questions—834-9481.



NEW BRANCH MEMBER

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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AAUW IS TAKING TWO BIG STEPS INTO THE FUTURE

Step One: The AAUW Experience.

Go to AAUW's new website and look for the "AAUW Experience." It's an innovative virtual tour of AAUW. Starting in our town square, you can see the sights yourself or hear from one of our guides, who will get you started in each building. It's easily accessible and fun to use, and you'll see AAUW in a fresh, new way! (For a complete "experience," make sure your computer's speakers are on.)

Step Two: AAUW's New Website.

It's been completely redesigned for easy navigation with a contemporary look and feel and quick links to our online communities: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Second Life.



TEXAS HERITAGE DIGITIZATION INITIATIVE IS NOW TEXAS HERITAGE ONLINE

The board of directors for the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative approved a name change to Texas Heritage Online (THO). “The new name more clearly communicates the purpose of the organization—to make Texas historical and cultural materials available online for learners of all ages,” said Cathy Hartman, assistant dean of libraries at the University of North Texas and immediate past chair of Texas Heritage Online’s managing board of directors. The vision and mission of Texas Heritage Online is to offer unified access to cultural heritage resources held by Texas institutions and to promote collaboration among these institutions by establishing common standards, sharing best practices, and facilitating cooperative funding to provide online access to cultural heritage resources. A federated web search application of the same name is available at www.texasheritageonline.org.

A volunteer board of directors provides organizational guidance for Texas Heritage Online. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission provides both additional administrative support for the initiative and technical support for the Texas Heritage Online search application

PEARS IN THE STUDY GROUP SPOTLIGHT

PEARS started out as a play on words, and it was started to include significant others in an activity. There was always an evening of eating (Pears) and bringing someone dear (Pair) to the evening gatherings in members' homes. At first, monthly meetings were tried, and then the group tried every other month for a time as flexibility became the key word! As I read over Branch yearbooks from the past fifteen years, the description always included such phrases as "dates vary," "times change," "TBA," and "watch the newsletter for events." In the early '90s it was decided to branch out and do theatre nights, Esther's Follies, Travel Fair, restaurant evenings, games nights, artist's retreat, Marble Falls, wine tour, October Fest, a search to find the best hamburger in town, and last month the horse races!



On the first day of Spring 2010, twelve PEARS members braved the cold, blustery weather and headed east to Manor for an afternoon at the racetrack. Manor Downs is hidden down Hill Lane just west of an impressive modern high school complex. In contrast Texas' oldest pari-mutuel horse racetrack is not fancy, but it is popular. Our reservations for seats in the grandstand were luckily exchanged that morning for tables inside the Turf Club where we could sit and eat in comfort for only \$5 each while watching TV screens showing live races across the country. Marsha Endahl Kramer even won one of her first bets on a Florida race! Veronica's Don Meyer had a pattern to his betting--just horse number three to place in each race, and with a little luck, he came out a bit ahead in three races. We were all winners, even if we bet more than we won because we

had fun. It will be worthwhile to go back in good weather to actually watch the horses racing at Manor Downs! The Hollands stayed the longest, staying in the Turf Club through the ninth race and then going outside for the tenth where they said it was exciting to be so close to the horses as they ran fast!



If you see in the newsletter that PEARS is doing something that interests you, please join us. This is a group that takes pride in flexibility and is open to new ideas and certainly to new people joining. And you do not have to be a "pair" to join; singles join us and have lots of fun. May is our planning meeting, so check out the calendar and join us to plan another year of fun and flexibility!

(Contributed by Veronica Johnson)

AUSTIN BRANCH OFFICERS 2009-2010 (Executive Committee)

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Kay Watson – President-Elect – 447.2883 –

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2010-2011

It is time to renew your AAUW Branch membership for the 2010-2011 program year. There are no increases in dues again this year, so the membership renewal is the same as it was last year: \$75.00 for Branch Member status, \$26 for Life Member status, and nothing for Honorary Member status. Your check should be made out to "AAUW" with "2010-2011 membership" noted in the "For" space. Membership renewal checks and forms may be brought to the May program/luncheon and given directly to the treasurer. If you are unable to attend, your check and information form should be mailed to arrive **no later than May 31, 2010**, to:

Austin Branch
American Association of University Women
PO Box 27223
Austin, TX 78755-2223

We will definitely have a 2010-2011 yearbook/directory, so please provide updated information along with your renewal check. Please include as much of the following as is relevant to you:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse/Partner's Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ FAX: _____

Work Contact Information if You Wish: _____

List Colleges/Universities & Degrees: _____

Interests, Activities & Special Honors: _____
