

## **Pam Wolfe – Remembering Austin AAUW Branch 1990-1999**

Twenty years ago, our Austin Branch was celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were at the Driskill Hotel Ballroom having lunch. The ballroom was full. Our speaker was Dr. Barbara Aldave and her topic was “Texas Women: Then and Now.” We also had a performance from our members. We had short skits that retold our AAUW Austin history from the beginning in 1923 and ending with the 1990s. By doing the research about our branch, we expanded our branch history. Lynn Cooksey was my Program VP and she arranged for the event to be videotaped. Judy Reinhart was my president-elect. She really helped by contacting past presidents who were no longer members -- several attended. We all wore hats at our celebration. And I was the presiding AAUW Austin President.

### **The Branch Meetings**

Around 1996 we stopped meeting at the top of the Hyatt for our branch meetings and moved to the Shoreline Grill. In the 1990s it was close to where the Four Seasons Hotel is now, so we just moved across the lake. It was nice, but we all missed the view from the Hyatt. We normally met on the first level with chairs arranged in audience style and had our meal on the second floor. We had announcements along with a speaker each month. One of the items on my agenda was to ask how our members were doing and if anyone was sick. There was always someone there who could update us on our members. We had our share of sign up sheets go around the meeting. We were still doing most of the Expanding Your Horizons (EYH). We were very active in raising money and donating supplies for the Austin Community Nursery Schools (now Mainspring Schools). A regular report we heard was from the Equity in Education committee whose members attended the State Board of Education meetings. We had 15 study groups, now called special interest groups.

## **Fundraisers**

In the 1990s, we raised funds for AAUW Educational Foundation and AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (now together as AAUW Funds), local scholarships at St. Edward's University and Austin Community Nursery Schools (now Mainspring Schools), and our University of Texas Fellowship.

The list of fundraisers included Home Tours, Antique Forum, Soda booth at Laguna Gloria Museum Festival, Style Shows, The Fantasy Concert that Never Was, and the Fantasy Feast that Never Was.

## **The Board of Directors**

My board was made up of 7 executive officers, with 18 standing committee chairs and appointed officers, and we had 11 appointed off-board positions. We had 10 committees and most of them had at least 6 members. We groomed our executive officers by getting them to join committees and move up the organizational chain getting trained in branch business, policies, procedures, and all things AAUW along the way.

Our board meetings were held in the conference room of a real estate office. It was not unusual to have around 25 board members attend the board meeting. We held them at 6:30 on a Monday night each month. We had very few shy members on the board. Everyone always had something to contribute. Luckily, I had been a manager for many years and had also received Facilitator training through my job. I sat at the center of the long conference table, so I could control the talking at the ends of the table and I had no problem using a timer, so no one dominated the discussion!

I have already mentioned Lynn and Judy but let me mention a few of my board members: Miriam Tormollan (treasurer), Ann Berasley (bylaws), Janie Patterson (newsletter), Janie Maldonado (Education Area of Interest), Dr. Inez C. Jeffery (International Relations AOI), Nita

Hornbeck (public policy), Dr. Vi Marie Taylor (study group coordinator), Dorothea Berasley (telephone tree), Larayne Dallas (archivist and still is!), Fern Chester (corresponding secretary), Sue Worden (webmaster), and Brenda Scholin (yearbook editor).