



## NEWSLETTER

November 2017  
Volume 109 Issue 3

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### 2017-2018 THEME

Equity: Putting Advocacy into Action

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### BRANCH OFFICERS

*President* Karen Reichensperger

*President-Elect* Suzanne Benson

*VP for Programs* Alicia Hyk

*VP for Membership* Pat Sanford

*Secretary* Kathy Dicke

*Treasurer* Mary Heye

## From the President

So much has happened since I last wrote you. Not only has Harvey come and gone, but Hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Nate also, leaving untold devastation to life and property, to say nothing about the shooting in Las Vegas. The “new normal” I mentioned will be a longtime coming. Unfortunately, that new normal will still have a gender pay gap of 80 cents to the dollar; will have decreased consumer protections, especially in the financial realm; will have more relaxed guidelines for gender equity in schools with the weakening of Title IX; will have astronomical college debt, especially for women since parents save for college for boys more than girls; will still have a need to strengthen the self-esteem and skills of women to negotiate what they are worth in their salary; will still need the means so that qualified voters do in fact vote; will still need to provide basic health care to girls and women. So, what can you/we do?

I do hope that the Branch meetings this year will give us some answers as well as the motivation to do something. The year started off well with the Interest Groups. We do need to foster our friendships so that we can share thoughts and insights and act together. None of us are in this alone. In October we heard how Girls Inc. helps girls develop their skills, self-esteem and self-confidence. This needs to be followed-up on through the years since AAUW research shows that as girls reach puberty, society erodes their self-esteem and self-confidence. In November, the League of Women Voters will provide some guidance to enhancing the voting experience for others with the hope that our representatives will truly be representative. We are off to a good start. Let's keep up the momentum! We can make strides together!

Most of all, we can be thankful. I am thankful for our AAUW Branch working so strongly towards our mission and thankful that so many organizations, educational facilities, and politicians receive our research with respect. I am thankful that I live in the United States of America with our freedoms, despite our frailties. I am thankful for my friends and family, including 10 grandkids and 7 great-grandkids. I am thankful for tomorrow. Join me in celebrating all that we have.

Karen Reichensperger

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## INTEREST GROUPS

### Bridge 1st & 3rd Mon

La Madeleine at Park North  
722 NW Loop 410 at Blanco, 78216  
6:00pm Dinner  
6:30pm Bridge  
Contact Pearl Eng  
pquaneng@hotmail.com  
210.240.8118

### Historic Southwest Sat, Nov 11

*Vietnam's Operation Baby Lift*  
Dr. Elaine Talarsky  
DoubleTree Hotel  
37 NE Loop 410 at McCullough, 78216  
12:00pm  
RSVP to Lola Hill  
lnhill25@gmail.com  
210.334.5897

### Culinary Adventures Thu, Nov 16

Mr. & Mrs. G's  
2222 S. WW White Rd, 78222  
11:30am  
RSVP to Fran Vettters  
francesvettters@yahoo.com  
210.481.7765

### Book Discussion Sat, Nov 18

*The Strange Career of William Ellis*  
by Karl Jacoby  
Host Mynda Holman McGuire  
20015 Encino Royale, 78259  
10:00am  
RSVP to Mynda Holman McGuire  
mynda@satx.rr.com  
210.287.1423

### Moviegoers Sun, Nov 19

Movie, time, and place selected by the group  
and announced the day before  
Contact Fran Vettters  
francesvettters@yahoo.com  
210.481.7765

### Happy Birthday, AAUW! Tue, Nov 28

The San Antonio Branch will celebrate the  
136th anniversary of AAUW  
Wildfish Seafood Grille  
1834 N. Loop 1604 W. at Huebner, 78248  
5:00pm  
RSVP to Malinda Gaul  
mgaul@satx.rr.com  
210.410.8992

## Save the Date

48th Biennial State Convention  
April 20-22, 2018  
Houston

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Pericos Mexican Cuisine  
1439 E. Sonterra Blvd, 78258

Madhu Sridhar, President of the San Antonio Area League of Women Voters, will discuss efforts to enhance voting equity and working with State of Texas requirements.

RSVP to Kate Vettters by Monday, October 30  
kvettters@sbcglobal.net

\$25 cash or check payable to AAUW

## PUBLIC POLICY

As a reminder of our Public Policy Priorities for 2017-2019, AAUW supports and promotes: High-quality public education; the economic, social, and physical well-being of all persons; the right to privacy and freedom from violence; improvement of racial, ethnic, and gender justice; the belief that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking, and that those policies promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all.

In September, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos rescinded part of the Title IX guidance protecting survivors of sexual assault on campus. The guidance has been replaced by a less robust Q&A guidance document, which is a rollback from the strong guidance that was in place. AAUW will continue to stand up to protect and defend Title IX and pursue its vigorous enforcement.

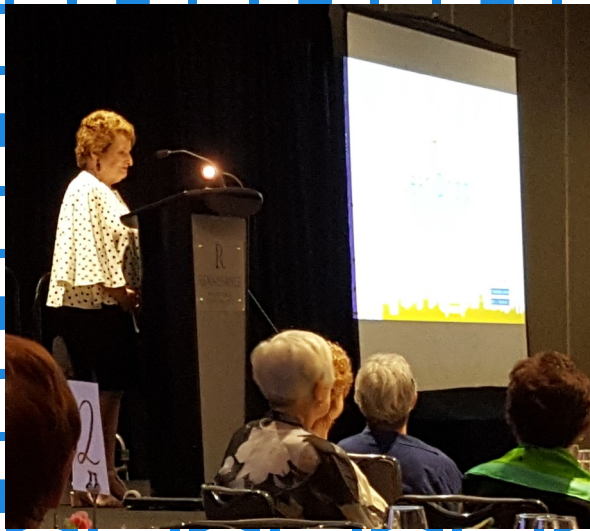
As the health care fight continues in efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), it is anticipated that efforts will persist to slash Medicaid and eliminate the mandates for insurers to cover maternity, reproductive care, and preexisting conditions. AAUW will continue to oppose these efforts, which specifically put women's access to health care in danger and threaten their economic security.



## Mynda and Malinda's Convention Adventures

### DAY TWO

On Thursday, June 15, 2017, hundreds of AAUW members from across the country boarded buses and took Capitol Hill by storm. The AAUW Texas delegation held meetings with staff members for Senator Ted Cruz and Senator John Cornyn. We talked with them about the importance of Title IX and, of course, pay equity. Then AAUW Texas members went in smaller groups to visit the offices of as many Texas Representatives as possible, leaving information about AAUW and our issues. Mynda and Malinda stopped by our representative Lamar Smith's office, among others. It was exciting to see hundreds of AAUW members with their t-shirts roaming the halls on Capitol Hill. We had back hall passes which gave us access to senators, representatives, and news media we have only seen on television. After an exciting day on Capitol Hill, Mynda and Malinda attended the Legacy Circle dinner where Texas was in the spotlight. AAUW Texas member Jackie Littleton, a Legacy Circle committee member, introduced speaker and AAUW Texas member Jean Dodds, who has recruited over 10 members of her branch to be Legacy Circle members. While contributions to AAUW during your life are important, please consider adding AAUW to your estate planning, through your will, as a beneficiary, or in some other way. Legacy donations will assure AAUW continues to do the great work it does today.



**JEAN DODDS**  
Legacy Circle Dinner



## OCTOBER MEETING

