



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

Volume 110 Issue 5

2018-2019 THEME

Empowerment Through Education

BRANCH OFFICERS

President

Suzanne Benson

Co-Vice President for Programs

Eleanor Skelley

Co-Vice President for Programs

Eva Nwokah

Vice President for Membership

Pat Sanford

Secretary

Cheryl Fuller

Treasurer

Mary Heye

sanantonio-tx.aauw.net

aauw.sanantonio@gmail.com



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!

As we enter the new year, I reflect on the last year and what a whirlwind it has been. There have been changes on all levels, but the mission of AAUW has remained strong. *Work Smart* is being offered for free online with a goal of reaching 10 million women trained in the next few years. Here in San Antonio we are working with several colleges and universities to offer *Start Smart* programs to teach young women how to negotiate their beginning salary and receive equal pay. If you have connections with any area colleges or universities, let us know. It always helps to have familiar contacts.

Our scholarship opportunities have been sent to area colleges and universities with a deadline for entry in February. There is much to do to promote equity for women and girls. Your help by participating in our fundraisers, your membership dues, and your willingness to serve on committees all go to helping young women get a quality education and a good start in their careers.

We hope to see you at the various activities this month. Remember we don't have a monthly meeting, but will catch up at *Wine Women and Wisdom*. Check the notice in the newsletter for details. All our activities are designed to promote friendships and share ideas. So come join us and get to know some new folks, or catch up with old friends.

Suzanne Benson



WINE WOMEN & WISDOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 5:00 PM

*****NO JANUARY MEETING*****

Come to **Wine, Women, & Wisdom** instead!

Mary Lou's Café

4405 McCullough Ave., 78212

\$20 includes wine and botanas

Please RSVP to Malinda Gaul

mgaul@satx.rr.com 210.410.8992

Branch Scholarships in Process

Scholarship announcements have been distributed to local colleges and universities. Graduate announcements went out to 16 colleges and universities. Textbook announcements went out to those 16, plus 10 associate degree programs. Do spread the word to students you may know.

The committees have been formed. Thanks to all who volunteered. We had more than enough volunteers which is testimony to how gratifying it is to read about our future leaders. Keep April 6th on your calendar to meet the cream of the cream and our college/university representatives.

How to Become an Effective AAUW Activist

To be an activist for issues you care about, you don't have to march anywhere. You can simply sit at your computer, open your tablet or smart phone, and vote. At this AAUW site (www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/) you will find many options for making your voice heard.

If you want to be an activist for fair pay for women, education, Title IX, and

others, look to this quick solution. You can use the reply AAUW has provided for an issue, or you can type in your own words explaining why you are for or against any specific issue.

Now is the time to focus on the Title IX changes recently called for by Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos. She wants to reverse several items in Title IX that will negatively impact victims of sexual assault. To learn more about AAUW's concerns about such changes to Title IX check out the article below. There is an urgency because a 60 day window of time began November 29 to allow citizens to post opinions about the changes. Now is the time to take this action.

Taking Action for Title IX

"The Department of Education has announced a plan to make sweeping changes to Title IX's regulations, which would have significant implications for students' civil rights. Specifically, the proposed rule would weaken Title IX's protections by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment to allow schools to exclude much of the abuse students

experience, limiting when schools will respond, and putting in place processes that make it harder for students to come forward when they experience sexual harassment or assault. Simply put, these changes will make schools less safe for students.

Over the next 60 days, we have an opportunity to weigh in with the Department of Education on their proposed changes. With students' safety under threat, we all must make our voices heard. Add your name below to join with AAUW in urging the Department of Education to keep Title IX strong.

If you're interested in authoring and submitting technical comments to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, contact us at advocacy@aauw.org.

Dear Secretary DeVos,

Title IX is essential to ensuring that our schools are free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence. But the Department of

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Gift Card Winner

The winner of the \$500 Visa Gift Card is Kate Veters. Congratulations to Kate and to the women who will be the recipients of the textbook scholarships that are awarded in the spring. Thank you to each of you who donated to the fundraiser. \$1450 was raised. After deducting \$505.95 for the gift card and fees, proceeds of \$944.05 will be used for the scholarships.

Effective Activist Continued

Education's proposed changes would weaken students' Title IX protections by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment to potentially exclude much of the abuse students experience and limiting when schools will respond to reports of sexual harassment and violence. In addition, the rule would put in place school processes that make it harder for students to come forward and receive the support they need when they experience sexual harassment or assault. These changes would ultimately make our schools less safe.

As Secretary of Education, you have the power to address this critical civil rights issue and help make schools safer and more equitable for all students. I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in urging you to withdraw the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Title IX and to work to ensure schools protect students from sex discrimination by fully enforcing, not rolling back, Title IX's protections."

Every Little Bit Counts

In the last newsletter I addressed how the branch uses income to support our activities and scholarships, and now I would like to focus on a broader commitment to AAUW's national programs.

The AAUW San Antonio Branch bylaws state our purpose is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our membership dues provide some support for local and national programs to fulfill this purpose. From each member's dues payment, \$59 is paid to National, \$13 to AAUW Texas, and \$16 to the branch. One topic of discussion for the board of directors has been our monetary support of National's programs. While we are often focused on local fundraisers and graduate scholarships from our endowment investments, we should also consider supporting AAUW initiatives at local, state, national, and global levels to empower women and girls to break through educational and economic barriers.

In 2017, the AAUW San Antonio Branch made a commitment to support AAUW's national programs with most need. On March 31, 2017, we entered into a memorandum of understanding with AAUW to establish an honorary fund of \$5000 to be paid by May 1, 2018. The branch made two payments of \$2500 to complete this agreement, and sent the final payment to AAUW in June. As the board considers further contributions, which national programs would you as a member choose to support? Here are some of the AAUW funds for your review:

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund

For research to provide analysis, data, and accurate information.

The Leadership Programs Fund

For developing women's potential to lead in their schools (e.g. National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, Campus Action Projects, Elect Her).

The AAUW Action Fund

For advancing equity through activism and voter mobilization.

The Legal Advocacy Fund

For protection of legal rights of those facing discrimination.

The Educational Opportunities Fund

For learning opportunities giving women a chance for lifetime success (e.g. Fellows Alumnae Initiative, Fellowships and Grants, Tech Trek STEM workshops).

The Public Policy Fund

For public policies and laws fair to women (e.g. Government Relations, Civic Engagement, Field Organizing).

SAC Receives AAUW Grant

The San Antonio College Department of Services for Women and Non-Traditional Students is pleased to announce that they have received a Campus Action Grant from AAUW to provide the Adelante Leadership Academy to Empower Women Student Parents on campus. Through a series of four "lunch and learn" workshops to be given at the Empowerment Center, participants will be exposed to campus and community leaders in order to develop their leadership skills. Interested women student/parents can be referred to Bertha Castellanos at the Empowerment Center. Details on the days and times of the workshops will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to SAC, one of our College/University members!!

INTEREST GROUPS

BRIDGE **TIME CHANGE**

1st and 3rd Mon, 2:30pm–5:30pm

LA MADELEINE at Park North
722 NW Loop 410 at Blanco, 78216
Contact Pearl Eng
pquaneng@hotmail.com
210.240.8118

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST

Sat, Jan 12, 12:00pm

Government Canyon State Natural Area
Speaker John Koepke
DOUBLETREE HOTEL
37 NE Loop 410 at McCullough, 78216
Contact Ruth Lyle
ruthannlyle@gmail.com
210.479.3349

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Thu, Jan 17, 11:30am

OKY DOKY RESTAURANT AND BAR
American, Mexican, and Eastern-European Cuisine
5616 Bandera Rd, 78238
RSVP to Fran Veters
francesveters@yahoo.com
210.481.7765

BOOK DISCUSSION

Sat, Jan 19, 10:00am

The Circle
by Dave Eggers
Hostess: Pat Sanford
18314 Beargrass Court, 78258
RSVP to Pat Sanford by Jan 16
pacmsan@me.com
210.479.0454

WINE, WOMEN, & WISDOM

Wed, Jan 23, 5:00pm

MARY LOU'S CAFÉ
4405 McCullough Ave, 78212
\$20 includes wine and botanas
Contact Malinda Gaul
mgaul@satx.rr.com
210.410.8992

MOVIEGOERS

Sat, Jan 26

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

EVENT

Creating Our Vision: Making the Dream Matter

For information and registration:
www.eventbrite.com/e/creating-our-vision-making-the-dream-matter-tickets-53144218789

Volunteer Opportunities

Child Advocates of San Antonio (CASA)
Family Violence Prevention Services
(Battered Women's Shelter)
The Children's Shelter
San Antonio Food Bank
Rape Crisis Center
San Antonio Youth Literacy
Habitat for Humanity
American Red Cross