**Things to Share with the North District Branches**

**State Convention**

Save the Date: *State Convention April 20-22, 2018* in Houston, TX

Embassy Suites \* Houston-Energy Corridor \* 11730 Katy Freeway

**Hotel Room rate: 2 Queen beds $115 + Tax or 1 King Bed $109 + tax (include free full breakfast)**

**Early Bird Registration is $195. A Mini-Grant for an Early Bird registration of $195 will be awarded to every branch that has at least one person registered and attending the convention. After convention, $ 195 will be reimbursed to any branch that qualifies. Each branch will determine the way that the Mini-Grant money is distributed to its attendees. Two suggestions: award the grant money to a first-time convention attendee or divide the grant money among all the attendees from your branch.**

**In addition to the Mini-Grants, there will be a drawing for one free registration. The name of each branch having at least two members make an Early Bird registration by February 15, 2018, will be entered into a drawing for a third person to register free for an Early Bird registration.**

Convention speakers so far: *Lisa Falkenburg*, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist

 *Senfronia Thompson*, Houston area state representative

**Testimonials**

Convention theme- E3 Blast off for Equity- Education- Empowerment

Your personal experiences are needed. What does Equity mean to me? What does Education mean to me? What does Empowerment mean to me?

Limit response to 25 words and include your name and branch. Email testimonials to Brenda Moss, aauw.brenda@windstream.net including the word testimonial in the subject line

**Branch Pictures Needed**

Please submit 10 pictures of your Branch’s activities to be displayed during the convention. Your branch convention attendees will have fun looking for your branch members in pictures among the table decorations.

**Branch Ads in the conference booklet**

Let your Branch Shine!

Ads are in black and white (see size and price below) -Reference email from Brenda Moss for additional information)

1. Business card - $25.00 (**3.5”x 2.0”)** 2) ¼ page - $35.00 **(3.5”x4.50”)**

3) ½ page - $75.00 **(7.5”x4.5”)**  4) Full page - $150 **(7.5”x 9.0”)**

**MAP Awards**

The MAP Award is about Membership, Advocacy, and Philanthropy.

Criteria:

1. Membership: The branch can achieve an **M** for membership by either increasing membership by 5%, having a retention rate of 90%, or recruiting 3 new members.
2. Advocacy: The branch can achieve an **A** for advocacy by planning one mission-based program or event.
3. Philanthropy: The branch can achieve a **P** for Philanthropy by donating $5.00 for each member to the Ann Richards American Fellowship.

**Ann Richards Fellowship**

Let’s finish funding the Ann Richards Fellowship and put the money to work!

Any person who donates $250 to the Ann Richards Fellowship between January 1 and March 1, 2018 will become a “Sister of Ann” and receive a yellow rose pin. Each branch that donates $500 during this time period will be recognized as a “Sister of Ann Branch”. All funds donated by branches NOW to March 1, 2018 will be matched by the state. (This includes Sister of Ann money.)

Pat Ross, AAUW Texas President during the biennium this fellowship was started, will attend the convention to make the final donation needed to finish the fund. (Pat is currently president of AAUW Florida)

**All Texas AAUW Members Vote for AAUW State Candidates**

One person, one vote comes to AAUW Texas this year.

Voting for candidates for state offices and proposed bylaws changes will be done electronically this year (like it is done on the national level). Be sure to read your Winter UWT (arriving late January or early February) for voting directions, candidates, bylaws proposals. Anyone who is not connected online may request a paper ballot from the state secretary. Voting will start March 1 and end during convention.

**Getting Ready for November 2018**

 **GET OUT THE VOTE**

In Texas, the candidate who wins in November is chosen at the primary in March. It is essential to register voters and get out the vote this spring if we are to elect officials more in line with our AAUW policies for the health and welfare of Texas women and girls.

**NCCWSL**

We urge all branches to consider adding the funding of a NCCWSL attendee (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) to their outreach projects. These young women become strong advocates for AAUW and are the future of our organization.