

**BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW) OF THE FORT BEND COUNTY,  
TEXAS, BRANCH**

**ARTICLE I. NAME AND GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1.** Name. The name of the organization shall be the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fort Bend County, Texas Branch, hereinafter known as the "Affiliate."

**Section 2.** Affiliate. AAUW Fort Bend County, Texas Branch is an Affiliate of AAUW as defined in Article V.

**Section 3.** Legal Compliance. The Affiliate shall comply with the requirements of AAUW and federal, state, and local law. The bylaws of the Affiliate shall in no way conflict with the AAUW Bylaws and/or policies.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** Purpose. The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The purpose of the Affiliate is to further AAUW purposes and policies.

**Section 2.** Policies and Programs. In keeping with this purpose, the Affiliate shall promote equity, education, and development of opportunities for women and girls that enable them to realize their full potential.

**ARTICLE III. USE OF NAME**

**Section 1.** Policies and Programs. The policies and programs of AAUW shall be binding on all members engaged in AAUW activities, and no member shall use the name of AAUW to oppose such policies or programs.

**Section 2.** Proper Use of Name and Logo. The name and logo of AAUW may be used only by members (as defined below at Article IV, Section 2) and Affiliates (as defined below at Article V, Section 1) only according to policies and procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors; others may do so only according to written licenses.

**Section 3.** Individual Freedom of Speech. These bylaws shall not abridge the freedom of speech of any AAUW member to speak an opinion in the member's own name.

**ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 1.** Composition. The members of AAUW at present consist of members ("Individual Members") and college/university members ("College/University Members").

**Section 2.** Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Members.

(1) Eligibility. An individual holding an associate's (or equivalent, e.g., RN), bachelor's, or higher degree from a higher education institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (an "Accredited Higher Education Institution") or other qualified educational institution located outside of the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of AAUW dues. The provisions set forth in this section are the sole requirement for eligibility and admissibility to AAUW membership except that the AAUW Board of Directors may establish a process to assess credentials that are submitted based on degree equivalence.

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(2) Appeals of Refusals of Admission to Membership. Any potential Individual Member or College/University Member who claims qualification for membership in AAUW and who has been refused admission to membership may present credentials to the AAUW Board of Directors for review. The decision of the AAUW Board of Directors shall be final.

(3) Saving Clause. No Individual Member shall lose membership due to any change in the status of the higher education institution upon which original qualification for membership was based.

(4) Life Membership.

(a) Paid. An Individual Member may become a life member (a "Life Member") upon a one-time payment of twenty years' annual AAUW dues, based on the amount of annual AAUW dues the year the Member elects to become a Life Member. Thereafter, the Life Member shall be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues.

(b) Fifty-Year Honorary. An Individual Member who has paid AAUW dues for fifty years shall become a Life Member and shall thereafter be exempt from the payment of AAUW national dues and AAUW Texas and Fort Bend County Branch dues.

b. College/University Members. Any Accredited Higher Education Institution or other qualified higher education institution located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, that pays annual dues to AAUW shall be eligible to be a College/University Member. Each College/University Member shall appoint one or two representatives who are eligible to be Individual Members and who shall each have the membership benefits of an Individual Member and any other benefits that accrue to representatives of College/University Members, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Student Associates.** The AAUW Board of Directors may permit undergraduate students enrolled in Accredited Higher Education Institutions or in other qualified educational institutions located outside the United States, as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors, to associate with AAUW, with fees (if any) and benefits as determined by the AAUW Board of Directors.

**Section 4. Dues.**

a. Amount. The annual dues and member benefits for any category of member shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the AAUW Board of Directors. Members shall be notified of the intent to consider a change in the dues, the proposed amount, and the rationale for the change at least 60 days prior to the vote.

b. Payment. Member dues shall be payable in accordance with procedures established by the AAUW Board of Directors.

c. New members may join at any time. Dues are payable upon joining, and membership is valid for one year.

d. Payment of state, national, and branch dues shall be waived for a transferring member whose current dues have been paid to another branch within the past year.

e. Payment of state and national dues shall be waived for a dual member who is also a current member of another branch.

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**Section 5.** Severance of Membership. Any member may be suspended or removed from membership for any conduct that tends to injure AAUW or to adversely affect its reputation or that is contrary to or destructive of its mission according to these bylaws, with action taken following policies and procedures adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors. In addition, a College/University member who is no longer eligible for membership shall be removed from membership as soon as practicable after he/she loses its eligibility.

**Article V. AAUW AFFILIATES**

**Section 1.** AAUW Affiliate Defined. An AAUW Affiliate ("Affiliate") is an organization affiliated with AAUW for the purpose of supporting AAUW's mission through Affiliate programs, fundraising, networking, and/or other activities. Affiliates are typically nonprofit membership organizations under state law and may also have been recognized as tax-exempt 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code. An Affiliate may use AAUW's name and/or logo only if approved by the AAUW Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** Organization.

- a. Purpose. Affiliates shall promote the purposes, programs, and policies of AAUW.
- b. Bylaws. Affiliates shall develop bylaws as meet their needs. However, any such bylaws shall not conflict with AAUW Bylaws or with applicable law. Affiliates shall promote the purposes, programs, and policies of AAUW.
- c. Structure. Affiliates may create such leadership structures as meet their needs. Each Affiliate shall provide AAUW with designated contacts for administration and finance.

**Section 3.** Loss of Recognition of an Affiliate.

- a. The AAUW affiliation status of an Affiliate may be revoked for cause through affiliation review procedures specified by the AAUW Board of Directors.
- b. The Affiliate shall have the right to appeal to the AAUW Board of Directors within a designated period.

**Section 4.** Property and Assets. The title to all property, funds, and assets of an Affiliate is vested in the Affiliate. An Affiliate shall have complete control of its property and assets, except that such property and assets shall not be used for any purpose contrary to AAUW's purposes. In the event of the dissolution of an Affiliate or the termination of an Affiliate's affiliation with AAUW, all assets of the Affiliate shall be transferred and delivered to AAUW or to another Affiliate designated by AAUW. AAUW may solicit and consider recommendations from local leaders before making a designation.

**ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Affiliate in all instances in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the AAUW Bylaws or with the requirements of AAUW or applicable laws.

**ARTICLE VII. AAUW-MANDATED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

AAUW-mandated amendments shall be implemented by the Affiliate's board of directors without a vote of the Affiliate's membership and as prescribed by the AAUW Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

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**Section 1. Nominations**

- a. There shall be a nominating committee of 3 members, elected or appointed.
- b. The names of the nominees for elected office shall be published and sent to every member at least 14 days prior to the annual branch meeting.
- c. Nominations may be made by members with the consent of the nominee.

**Section 2. Elections**

- a. Elections shall be in person at the Affiliate meeting or electronically. Elections shall be by a majority vote of those voting.
- b. The number of members voting must meet the quorum stated for meetings in Article XIII, Section 5.

**ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

**Section 1. Officers**

- a. The elected officers for the affiliate shall fulfill the functions of Administration, Communication, Programs, Membership, and Finance.
- b. The appointed officers shall be those deemed necessary to carry on the work of the branch. They shall be appointed by the president with the consent of the board.
- c. Officers shall serve for a term of 1 year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and assume office. Terms of office shall begin on July 1.
- d. No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.
- e. All vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the board with the exception of a vacancy in the office of president, which shall be filled by the program vice president.
- f. Each office may be filled by an officer or co-officers.

**Section 2. Duties**

- a. Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the rules of policies and procedures adopted by the board of directors, and by the current editions of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.
- b. The president shall be the official spokesperson and representative for the branch and shall be responsible for submitting such reports and forms as required by AAUW.
- c. The vice president(s) shall perform such duties as the president and the board shall direct.
- d. The finance officer shall be responsible for collecting, distributing and accounting for the funds of the branch and for meeting specific deadlines. He/she shall also send moneys to the AAUW Funds and other philanthropic events by the specified deadlines and shall keep separate ledgers for each type of account.
- e. The communication chair shall record and keep minutes of all board, membership, and special meetings.

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f. All officers and chairs shall submit annual reports as requested by the president.

**ARTICLE X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1.** Composition. The board of directors shall include the elected officers, appointed officers, immediate past president, and any branch member holding a District Representative position.

**Section 2.** Administrative Responsibilities. The board shall have the power to administer affairs of the branch and to carry out its programs and its policies, and shall accept responsibilities delegated by AAUW and Texas branch. It shall act for the branch between membership meetings. The board shall have fiscal responsibility as outlined in Article XII, Section 2.

**Section 3.** Meetings. Meetings of the board shall be held at least 3 times a year (summer, fall/winter, and winter/spring) at a time and place agreed upon by the board.

**Section 4.** Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president or shall be called upon request of 2 members of the board.

**Section 5.** Quorum. The quorum for a meeting of the board shall be a majority of the board.

**ARTICLE XI. COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** Establishing Committees. The president may establish standing and special committees as needed with the consent by the board.

**Section 2.** Purpose. With the approval of the board, each standing and special committee shall formulate programs and activities to carry out the mission of AAUW.

**ARTICLE XII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Section 1.** Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall correspond with that of AAUW and shall begin July 1. Dues are in arrears as of December 31 and unpaid members shall be dropped from the roll.

**Section 2.** Financial Policies. The board shall set and maintain policies and procedures to control financial records consistent with generally accepted accounting principles and federal, state and local laws including an annual financial review.

**Section 3.** Budget. The board shall adopt an annual budget for presentation to the affiliate.

**ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Annual Meeting. The Affiliate shall hold an annual meeting to conduct the business of the Affiliate, including but not limited to, electing officers, establishing dues, amending bylaws and receiving reports. This meeting shall be held between March 1 and June 15, and may be held in person or via electronic media.

**Section 2.** Membership Meetings. The Affiliate shall hold at least 6 meetings during the fiscal year. These meetings may include speaker meetings, field trips, and social events, excluding the winter holiday party. The affiliate board shall determine the time and place for these meetings.

**Section 3.** Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the president or shall be called by the president at the written request of 2 members of the board or 10 percent of the branch membership.

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**Section 4.** Meetings Notice. Notice of meetings shall be sent to all members of the affiliate at least 10 days prior to the meetings.

**Section 5.** Quorum. The quorum shall be 10 percent of the affiliate membership.

**ARTICLE XIV. PROPERTY AND ASSETS**

The title to all property, funds and assets is vested in the AAUW Fort Bend affiliate for the joint use of members and no member or group of members shall have any severable right to all or any part of such property. Property and assets shall not be used for any purpose contrary to AAUW. In the event of dissolution of the AAUW Fort Bend affiliate, all assets of the branch shall be transferred and delivered to AAUW or to an AAUW-affiliated entity designated by AAUW.

**ARTICLE XV. LOSS OF RECOGNITION**

The provisions and conditions under which a branch may lose recognition are found in the AAUW Bylaws.

**ARTICLE XVI. INDEMNIFICATION**

Every board or committee member may be indemnified by the branch against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon such board or committee members in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding to which the board or committee member may become involved by reason of being or having been a member of the board or committee, or any settlement thereof, unless adjudged therein to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duties. In the event of a settlement the indemnification herein shall apply only when the branch board approves such settlement and reimbursement as being in the best interest of the branch. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which the member of the board or committee is entitled.

**ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

Provisions of these bylaws which are not governed by the AAUW Bylaws may be amended at a general membership meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, or by electronic or mail ballot, provided written notice shall have been sent to the members prior to the meeting.

Most recent revision: March 10, 2025, A. Bice