



Corpus Christi (TX) Branch

American Association of University Women

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

November Edition 2024

November Membership Meeting to Feature Presentation from the DMC AAUW Members

- What:** November Membership Meeting
- When:** Saturday, Nov. 2, at 10:30 am (join us for refreshments at 10:00 am)
- Where:** YWCA, 4601 Corona Dr.

The November leadership meeting will feature the Del Mar College (DMC) AAUW participants that attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at the University of Maryland College Park. During the presentation they will talk about their experiences at the leadership conference and the inspiring and motivational speakers. The AAUW’s annual conference, which took place in May brings together more than 800 young women from the country for two and a half days of leadership training, networking, and inspiration. This year’s event included sessions on career development, mentorship, financial literacy, racial-justice activism and more. Participants had an opportunity to explore post-graduate programs, careers in a variety of disciplines and other opportunities for their future.

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President's Message

Make a Difference Where You Are



Kelly Gonzalez, President

There are a lot of problems in the world, and they are big ones. We discussed some of these at our October branch meeting. Sometimes they seem insurmountable. But we all know differently.

I remember a conversation I had several years ago with my youngest son. He was still young but old enough to start paying attention to what was going on in the world. He was really down about it, whatever "it" was. I told him change happens when we get involved. He said he couldn't do anything. The problem was too big. I told him that he over time big change could happen but it starts small. Start in your corner of the world I told him. Make a difference where you are.

This is something I have believed in for a long time. It's why I joined AAUW and why I love helping out at all our events. Today I would like to ask you to Make a Difference Where You Are. And more importantly, make a difference where we are.

We have some wonderful opportunities to make a difference coming up. Just today, we received information about an event at West Oso where we have the chance to help fellow AAUW member Kim Moore, who devotes so much of her time to help make her school the best it can be.

We have the All Saints Festival on Saturday, November 9 from 11 am – 4 pm. The branch, STEM Committee and Book Finders will all have a table at the event. Come show your support to help man a table and help All Saints Church have a successful festival. We also have the chance to support the YW Teens at the Holiday Shopping event on December 14 from 1-3 pm at the Y. We need volunteers to help make this a very special memory for these girls and support the Community Outreach Committee.

Make a difference. Show up when you are needed.

"Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." --- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

October 2024 Meeting

by Dr. Vickie Natale



AAUW Corpus Christi Branch held a meeting at the YWCA on October 5, 2024, starting at 10:30 a.m. President Kelly Gonzalez welcomed guests and members, and Leslie Peart, VP of membership, introduced our most recent member who was in attendance. Due to a late cancellation from our scheduled speaker, Finance Officer Dr. Vickie Natale – and several other members who have participated in public comments at recent Library Board meetings and City Council meetings – provided an in-depth review of the recent controversy surrounding the Corpus Christi Public Libraries Board.

In November 2023, the City Council, with a majority vote of five, appointed five new members to the CCPL Board, eschewing the reappointment of three sitting library board members, including Dr. Natale. The five new library board members have ties or affiliations with two national organizations that strongly advocate for removal of books that they find objectionable from schools and public libraries.

Members were provided a handout with information about these groups and a list of books that are frequently targeted by these groups. [PEN America](#), a nonprofit organization that tracks book banning efforts across the nation, provides a [list of books that have been challenged or banned](#), along with the state and district where the banning has occurred. Included among this list are classics, such as *The Color Purple*; *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Maus*; *Anne Frank's Diary, the Graphic Adaptation*; *The Kite Runner*; *The Bluest Eye*; *Nineteen Minutes*; *Of Mice and Men*; and *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Books most frequently targeted include LGBTQ topics, sex education books, and books supporting the *Black Lives Matter* movement. The state most frequently involved in book banning is Florida, with Texas a close second.

Members are encouraged to become informed about this topic and about the candidates running for City Council and other offices, including the local school boards. Election day is November 5. Exercise your right to VOTE and have your voice heard.

Links to resources for learning about local and state candidates:

[Where council candidates stand on issues such as desal, library policy](#)

[Here's what to know about CCISD school board candidates](#)

[LWVCCA Local Voters Guide English.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Personalized Ballot | VOTE411](#)

Community Outreach Committee

YW Teen Christmas Shopping Event



The Community Outreach Committee is in the process of planning the YW Teen Christmas shopping event. The event will be on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 1-3 pm at the YWCA.

We invite you to join us by volunteering at this wonderful event. Volunteers are needed to help the girls with shopping, gift wrapping, making the Christmas ornament and helping with hot chocolate and cookies.

YW Teen is a character development program for girls in the fifth and sixth grades provided by the YWCA Corpus Christi.

You also have the opportunity to donate gift bags, tissue paper, bows and tape. Please bring items to our

next Branch meeting. The next Community Outreach Committee meeting is on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 12:15 pm at the YWCA.

Special Committee News

Bookfinders are Back



The Bookfinders are very excited to learn that the renovation project at Neyland Library is now completed. We are looking forward to holding four book sales to support our mission to serve women and girls in our community.

The book sale schedule for 2024-25 follows:

- November 14-16
- January 23-25
- March 27-29
- June 12-14

For more information, contact Kristin Conlan.

Combatting Disinformation

How to Spot Disinformation:

- Pause to check your facts. Look into the source the information is coming from. Do this especially when what you're seeing evokes a strong emotional response, as that is a common disinformation tactic.
- If you do encounter disinformation, do not repeat, reply to, or share it.
- Instead, flag the content for social media platforms and report it: <https://reportdisinfo.org/>.

Additional fact checking resources: <https://www.politifact.com> and <https://www.factcheck.org/>

The general election is upon us. Sharing truthful, proactive messaging about voting and elections is one of the best ways we can make disinformation a losing strategy.

Voting logistics - Disinformation about voting logistics aims to confuse voters about when or how to vote. It is compounded by confusion about new legislation affecting voting policies. Clarify Texas state's voting laws and direct voters to trusted websites for more information.

Election night ≠ Results night

We may not know the results on election day — and that's okay. When it comes to election results, accuracy is more important than speed. Election officials must take the time to do their job and ensure every vote is accurately and securely counted before we declare a winner. #CountEveryVote Source: Spitfire Strategies, Common Cause, Leadership Conference Center for Civil Rights and Technology

For addition voting information you may check the AAUW website here:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/#voterguides>



Interest Group News



Wine and Cheese
Sunday, Nov. 10th
at 5 pm



Wine and Cheese is scheduled to meet at on Sunday, Nov. 10th, at 5 pm, and is being hosted by Agnes Hamilton and Joanie Whitmire. We will be meeting at Joanie's home.

Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.

From Susan Birchfield



The Lunch Bunch will be meeting at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, Nov. 19th. We will be meeting at Cafe Italia, located at 4117 S Staples.

Please RSVP to Susan Birchfield if you plan to attend.

From Susan Birchfield



We would love to have pictures and short video clips from your AAUW activities! Please send them to either Lara or Kay at aauw.cc.social@gmail.com. Also include what the picture or video is, the date, and who is in the picture or video. We would like to showcase our members! Our social media email address is aauw.cc.social@gmail.com

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