**AAUW Hill Country, Inc. New Branch Organization**

**Member Summary**

The objective of the new branch organization is to provide a member driven flat organization that improves each member's ability to communicate and participate in branch activities.

The advantages of a flat (versus vertical) organization are:

 it elevates the members' level of responsibility in the organization.

 it removes excess layers of reporting.

 It improves the coordination and speed of communication between members.

Fewer levels of reporting encourage an easier decision-making process among and by members.

All branch activities must support the AAUW mission, bylaws, 501(c)3 regulations and financial responsibilities.

Specific changes are:

 Members are empowered. Don’t ask, just do it!

 A new Interest Group Council provides focus on interest group vitality.

 Branch Steering Council relinquishes a good deal of oversight responsibility, but still provides branch administrative support and interface with other AAUW affiliates.

 Three general business meetings will be scheduled by the Steering Council to communicate branch activities and handle tasks required by the bylaws, including elections.

 Coordination of Programs becomes an Interest Group and determines location, frequency of meetings and content. The interest group could meet at 10:00 on Saturday morning - with venues to be determined—possibly alternating between Schreiner’s meeting space and other local venues.

 Bylaws must be updated to reflect changes in organization.

Branch activities fall into three groups: Education and Social (Interest Groups, i.e., Great Decisions), Mission (Task Forces/Projects , i.e., Scholarship) and Support (Branch administration, i.e., Newsletter).

 A new 4-member Interest Group Council enables the gathering of interest group information and the creation of new interest groups. Each interest group leader is responsible for the group’s location and content. Any member can start a new interest group. Don’t ask, just do it! But communicate and collaborate!

The Task Force/Project Leaders are responsible for their community activities. Any member can originate a new project. Don’t ask, just do it!

A 4-member Steering Council is comprised of the elected officers of the branch. The council is responsible for staffing branch support tasks like Newsletter Editor. It provides the focal point for other AAUW affiliates like national and Texas AAUW. The branch support members are responsible for the administration and communication tasks needed to make the branch work.