

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

In celebration of AWM's 40th Anniversary, we are sharing the rich history of the organization and its influencers like past Presidents and Trailblazers. In this issue we are featuring **Gloria Williamson**, President from 1998 to 2000. We asked Gloria a few questions about what she remembered and enjoyed the most about her involvement with AWM.



AWM: DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU FIRST GOT INVOLVED WITH AWM? WHO RECRUITED YOU?

Gloria: Thinking back...I remember it clearly. I had just started working at KLBJ-FM, my first media sales job out of college and Monica (Wood) Low, an established sales rep, came right over to my cubicle my first week on the job and said "Come on, you're going to an AWRT luncheon with me! You need to network, girl!" So I went with her. From there, instantly, Mary Strickland and Dorothy Binder took me under their wings and started grooming me to join the local board. Mary and Dorothy were very instrumental in getting me involved, but Monica introduced me. All three women were great mentors to me.

AWM: WHAT POSITIONS HAVE YOU HELD OVER THE YEARS ON THE BOARD? IS THERE A FAVORITE?

Gloria: I believe I started out by being "hospitality chair." My job was to welcome folks as they signed in and paid for their lunch. Mary and Dorothy told me it was the best way for me to meet everyone. They were right. Then I moved to Secretary, and eventually President of the Austin Chapter. I even served on the National Board of AWRT! My favorite position was when I was President. I was really rough around the edges with public speaking and every month I had to push myself out of my comfort zone and to do better with my public speaking. I felt like I really grew in my career and my networking and sales skills during that time. I believe as President, your passion for advancing careers and empowering women is evident to all. I really enjoyed that.

AWM: WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE AWM MEMORIES OR EVENTS?

Gloria: TRAVEL!!! Serving on the National Board, I got to travel to Chicago and New York for National Board Meetings. It was spectacular and fun! I even got to go to The Gracies Awards in NYC with my mother as my guest. My mom and I still talk about that wonderful trip. Incredible memories and I met some powerful and inspirational women.

AWM: ANY WORDS OR THOUGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE FOR AWM'S NEXT 40 YEARS?

Gloria: This organization has ALWAYS championed Women in Media. In the 90's, with the news of the Anita Hill hearings on our TVs, we all realized how detrimental sexual harassment and especially inappropriate conduct and words were to our everyday work life. And we realized a lot of us were victims of sexual harassment and even racial discrimination at the time. We spent a great many luncheons educating members on the subjects. I believe we truly helped make a change for the better. We were a great resource for many media professionals in Austin. I am thrilled that AWM is celebrating 40 years of success, education, and empowerment. Now more than ever, this great organization is needed. We ALL need someone championing and enhancing our careers!

Gloria Martinez Williamson graduated from the University of Texas and interned with Monica Davis of The Davis Group (the epitome of strong women in media). From there, Gloria sold local, regional, and national advertising at KLBJ-FM, KXAN-TV, Time Warner Cable, Hispanic Magazine, MRI, SiTV, KXAN-TV (again), Austin Monthly, and various daily deal sites. In 2009, Gloria began her own marketing consultancy, Glow Media, so she could enjoy the flexibility of working from home and keeping busy with PTA and Girl Scouts. After surviving a traumatic scooter accident in 2015, and spending two months in the hospital and eight months of recovery, it was time for a change. Gloria went back to work to "get her mind off of the accident." She began working at The Austin Chronicle in 2018 as an account executive and is absolutely thriving there.

Married to Lawrence, mother to 12-year-old Sofia, and Stepmom to Haliegh (30) and Jake (26), Gloria misses AWM and looks forward to attending meetings and reconnecting with old media friends and meeting new ones!

#awmatx40