



Connection

2003-04

TDW Officers

Kellie Bailey
President
Austin

Alieca Hux
Vice President
Sulphur Springs

Wilma Allen
Secretary
Harker Heights

Gwen King
Treasurer
Fair Oak Ranch

Betty Richie
Past President
Graham

Board

Members

Donna Beth McCormick
Austin

Harriet Miller
Dallas

Karen Palmer
The Woodlands

State Democratic Party

Chair Resigns

MollyBeth Malcomb, state party chair, gave her letter of resignation to become effective October 25, 2003. Citing family obligations, she is leaving during her third term. MollyBeth served as president of TDW from 1997 to 1999 when she was elected state party chair. She has been and continues to be an avid supporter and member of TDW. We thank her for her tireless efforts and wish her and her family well.

An interim chair will be appointed on October 25th to serve out the unexpired term. The State Democratic Executive Committee is responsible for this appointment. When the term expires in June 2004, delegates at the State Convention will then elect a party chair to serve a new term.

The list of names of those who are seeking the nomination continues to grow. Included in that list are: Sherry Boyles, Gary Mauro, David Van Os, Charles Soechting, Senator Carl Parker, Representative Garnet Coleman, and Mary Moore. The rules allow candidates to write their names in as late as the day of the meeting. Despite the fact Texas Democratic Women has two places on the SDEC, we do not have a vote because we are "Add-on" members. Only those members elected from their senatorial districts have voting power. For more information on this process you can visit Grassrootsnetworkupdate@hostricity.net.

Although Texas Democratic Women does not endorse any candidate, we do encourage you to contact your SDEC member to let her or him know your position on whom you believe will serve our party best. This is an important vote and your opinion counts. No matter which candidate is elected s/he will certainly be working with and supported by TDW to lead our party to victory and take back our state! If you are in the Austin area on October 25th, come to the meeting and watch the process unfold.

Message from the President

It is my honor and privilege to be president of the Texas Democratic Women. During my term I will strive to pay tribute to the women preceding me who have knocked down the proverbial doors by holding them open for the women following me.

I have come to this position with certain goals in mind. I want to see TDW make great strides in two main areas while I am president. My first goal is to ensure each member of TDW receives the tools and education s/he seeks to increase her/his involvement and influence in Democratic politics. My second goal is to ensure TDW has a direct, positive and long-term impact on Democratic politics in this state.

With the tireless assistance and guidance of the board, the committee members, and the countless volunteers, we are setting these goals in place. But, we cannot do any of this without YOU! I encourage you to contact me, a board member, a committee member, your chapter president, or our website to find out what YOU can do to become more involved in TDW.

With our annual convention just around the corner, there is much to be done. I will be contacting each chapter president in the next two weeks with information about the convention and volunteer opportunities. I hope to hear back from each of you!!!

In the meantime, take a look at one of the ways we are achieving the first goal I mentioned. Log on to our website for a wealth of current information about local, state and national issues, upcoming events, news and articles. Because we recognize the demands of a busy schedule, our website is not just an information resource, it is also a convenient vehicle for immediate action and activism.

I look forward to working with each of you. Together, we are the heart of the party.

Kellie Bailey
TDW President

2003 - 2004

TDW Officers

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Message to TDW Members

It is with deep regret that I tendered my resignation as President of TDW after the retreat in July. Because of family illnesses and business interests in Colorado, we will be moving back in August.

The 2003 TDW Board of Directors is made up of an exceptional group of women, and I will miss working with them and rest of the TDW membership. Thanks so much to all of you who have worked this past year to help grow this organization and set up the parameters to make it even bigger and better than ever. TDW is an organization on the move and is getting national recognition through the website—tdw.org.

Since the convention in February we have added many members to our membership. You must keep working to engage more women in the political process and elect Democratic women to office in 2004. Just think of the possibilities: find one great woman to run against Tom DeLay, have every member of TDW support and work for her, garner contributions from across the nation, get the support of MoveOn and other top Democratic groups, and win the election. It is possible—with work and perseverance. It would be the greatest gift you could give this nation.

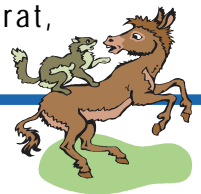
Kellie Bailey will be taking over the reins of TDW and will continue to be your TDW president next year. Show your support for Kellie and rest of the board by attending the 2004 Convention in February.

In closing I would like to give special thanks to Linda Allen, Peg MacPhail, and Susan Reeves for the full-time job they have in running the TDW website. It is the best!! Also, I would like to give special thanks to Gwen King for the untold hours she has spent on organizing our data base and keeping our financial records. This is a huge job and Gwen has done it very well. Finally, I would like to thank the Kendall County Area Democratic Women for being my friends and saying "yes" every single time I asked for help.

Remember the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

We are currently living this "horror" with the likes of Bush, DeLay, and Perry. We must "do the thing we sometimes think we cannot do"—elect Democratic women to those offices.

Proud to be a Democrat,
Alice Braly



TDW Well-Received at Women's Conference

On October 1, TDW had a table at the Texas Conference for Women. This is an annual event sponsored by Rick and Anita Perry. This year's speakers included Governor Perry and Karen Hughes. TDW had its table near the speaker's hall and received a great deal of interest. We gave out over 400 brochures and took down nearly 100 names of women who were interested in receiving more information. During the Governor's speech, he told his audience how he valued women, children, and education. We noticed, coincidentally, shortly thereafter the foot traffic out of the hall and towards our table increased. Women commented that they were happy to see us at the conference. They questioned Perry's ability to stand up before the audience and speak such lies. *The women we spoke to said they had had enough! So have we. So have we.*

TDW Co-Sponsors Successful Campaign Camp



Texas Democratic Women co-sponsored the Texas Democratic party's 2003 Campaign Camp in Dallas September 19-21, 2003, conducted by Grassroots Solutions of Washington, D.C. The training program covered three tracks: *Introduction to Management for Future Paid Professionals*, for those who want to be staff on a campaign within two years; *Management for Political Veterans*, to give your election team the modern management fundamentals to be successful at the grassroots level; and *How to be a Better Candidate*, an introduction and preparation for a run at elected office. Each session was lead by a top political consultant, some from national firms and some from Texas.

The Camp sold out prior to the event and had a waiting list. It drew a wide audience including elected officials, activists, labor, and other women's political organizations. Attendees praised the Camp as being invaluable for the thorough approach. After participants listened to the lecture portion, they had the opportunity to practice what they had just learned through exercises that reinforced the discussions. These included: writing and giving a stump speech; writing and filming a TV commercial; writing a press release; preparing a campaign budget; and meeting a crisis. All of the attendees were then given notebooks with extensive materials covering the subjects presented.



Goals Defined at TDW Retreat

In July members of TDW met in Galveston for our annual retreat. Galveston County TDW worked very hard to put on this beautiful, well-coordinated event, complete with organized work sessions, good food, good friends, and a little time for socializing.

During the work sessions we had the opportunity to learn about the diversity and history of TDW. This is critical when your task is to set goals for the organization. With the help of a moderator we set out some major goals for TWD. We then broke into groups assigned a particular goal and brain-stormed on how best to achieve the stated goal.

Here are some of the broad goals the attendees set:



Create a strong infrastructure



Increase training and education



Increase communication



Raise more money



Increase activism

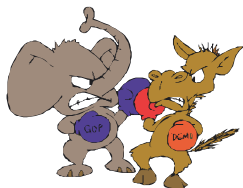


Give more money to candidates

The board is working on developing the action plans for these and other goals. Expect to hear about these plans at the convention in February where we will need your assistance and support.

Back to the Basics Grassroots Training

Carolyn Harvey, President, TDW Central Texas



The Republicans have defined us too long. It is time to speak up and set the record straight. We are in a fight for Democracy as we know it and need all the tools available. We must arm ourselves with all the knowledge possible. The Texas Democratic Party has put together a

Training Program called "Back to the Basics: Grassroots Training." There have several held across the state. If there has not been one in your area, call the Party office and get the information and plan one.

All politics is local and elections are won precinct by precinct. This program tells how to organize at the precinct level. We need to identify our Democrats and get them excited. As Democrats we must rebuild from the ground up. We have stay on message. We must get that message out at every opportunity.

This program teaches party organization from the precinct to the State Party. It talks about Fundraising and Event Planning. Are you interesting in being a Delegate to the National Convention? The program tells you how to do that.

TDW of Central Texas is planning a Grassroots Training on November 1, 2003 in Waco. Information will be on the website.

When the time comes, we must be a well oiled mean campaign machine.

Arnie Needs Government 101

Arnold Schwarzenegger called on Governor Gray Davis not to make any more appointments or sign legislation in the waning days of his administration, although Schwarzenegger acknowledged it is Davis' right to do so.

"I would like it really if he doesn't sign any more bills, as far as that goes," Schwarzenegger said on Thursday. Davis spokesperson, Steven Maviglio, said Davis will continue to make appointments and act on legislation. He added: "The governor-elect might be interested in learning that bills Governor Davis does not act on before October 13th automatically become law."



November 6

Coastal Bend Texas Democratic Women "Heart of the Party" Gala Fundraising Event at 5:30 PM at the Bayfront Plaza & Convention Center, 1901 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX. For tickets (\$25) and information contact Barbara Cline at (361)992-1634. Also check the chapter web page at <http://www.tdw.org/CoastalBendChapter.html>.

November 15

Democratic Gala and Fundraiser for SHARON SANDERS WEBSTER - DEMOCRAT FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY COMMISSINER - PRECINCT 3 at Berry Creek Country Club in Georgetown from 2 p.m - 4 p.m. WebsterforPct3@aol.com for more information

November 28

Last day to send in awards forms for convention. Contact: Dani Vollmer 1.830.249.3706

December 20

Last day to announce intention of running for TDW office
Contact: Kellie Bailey 1.512.479.1152

January 31, 2004

Last day to make hotel reservations for convention.
Contact: Radisson 1.800.333.3333

February 20-24

Texas Democratic Women 2004 Annual Convention
Radisson on Town Lake
Austin

*Mark your calendar for these dates.
See inserted pages for more
information on the Convention.
See you there!*



Gwen King

8385 Rolling Acres Trail
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ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

Quips, Quotes & Tidbits

Kerr County Area TDW

THANKS! Wilma Palmer, vice president of the Kerr County Area chapter from 1999-2001, has presented the chapter with four gift memberships in EMILY's List. Long a member of EMILY's List herself, Wilma has always been a staunch supporter of Democratic women candidates. Her gift to the chapter will greatly expand that support. Thank you, Wilma!

Harris County TDW Sponsors Political Educational Awareness Forum

The Harris County Texas Democratic Women sponsored a **Political Educational Awareness Forum** on Saturday, August 23, 2003 in Houston. The goal was three-fold:



to educate the public about its rights as voters



to focus on the importance of voting



to explain the governmental impact on voting at the local, state and national level

*Great Year for
TDW*

*Time to Renew
Memberships*

Since October 2002, TDW has added seven (7) new clubs, reinstated two (2) clubs that had stopped functioning, and registered 620 new members. Let's keep the momentum going. Tell all your friends to join and renew all the members that you now have. If I can give you any help in this regard, call or email me – Gwen King, Treasurer, 830/981-4438 or sugarsp@gvtc.com.