

The Connection

December 2005

the newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

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2006 TDW Convention!

The 2006 TDW State Convention will be held again at the Radisson Town Lake in Austin. The Convention will be February 24-26, 2006. "Honor Ethics and Responsibility (H.E.R.)" will be our theme for the convention and the upcoming election year. We will hold a candidate's forum focusing on statewide candidates, as well as breakout sessions.

Please pay close attention to the deadlines for making hotel reservations and getting your nomination forms completed. Last year the "Ester's Follies" tickets went very fast and some people waited too late to reserve their tickets---so make your plans to attend. The forms are included in this issue of **The Connection** and are also available on line at www.tdw.org.

If your chapter would like to host the summer retreat, a representative must attend the February 26 board meeting with a presentation for the board to consider. There are already two chapters which have indicated an interest in hosting!

Join us in Austin in February!

Harriet Miller to Run for State Legislature!

Harriet Miller, TDW president-elect has resigned to run against Tony Goolsby from District 102 for the state Legislature. In her first attempt at running for public office, she received almost 47% of the vote when she ran for this same office. Harriet anticipates raising more money and receiv-

ing much more support this time around. As much as she was looking forward to serving as TDW President, this is an opportunity that she cannot let pass. While this is TDW's loss, it will be a huge gain for the people of Harriet's district when she defeats her Republican opponent! We wish her all the best and will work to help her in any way we can.

Marcia Mainord has been appointed to serve as interim president-elect and will be running for a full term at the 2006 Convention. She has served this past year as Membership Chair and has done an excellent job!

JoAnn Jenkins has been appointed to serve as interim vice-president until the elections at the Convention in February.

"TDW, Hear Us Roar"

Kudos to the Coastal Bend Chapter for coming up with this great fundraising idea for the Texas Democratic Party (TDP)! It was such a good idea that TDW received a "thank you" from TDP Chair, Charles Soechting.

The idea is that each TDW member (there were 1750 at publication time) donate \$10 to the TDW. This would immediately put \$17,500 in the TDP coffers as well as send the message to the TDP that TDW has a loud voice in Texas politics. For details, see the contribution form on page 3 or check it out at www.tdw.org.

President's Message



We will soon be gathering in Austin for our annual Convention! I am hoping that you will all make plans to attend. The theme for the convention and for the upcoming election year will be H.E.R. — Honor Ethics and Responsibility! This is the year that TDW and Democrats across the state show the people of Texas that we have always believed in these values and practiced them — not just when it is convenient or an election year! We have listened to Republicans scream about “family values” while corporations and cronyism is destroying ordinary families’ ability to make a living; we have watched as Republicans abdicated their responsibility to public education; and ethics! I doubt that Tom Delay can spell ethics!

Now is the time for H.E.R., and Texas Democratic Women can help lead the way! Come to the Convention and learn how we can put H.E.R. back in government.

Proud to be a Democrat!

Alieca Hux

President, Texas Democratic Women

Membership Report

We now have 43 active chapters.! We are glad to have Navarro County active again. We also welcome our newest chartered club, Erath County. They are young, but rapidly growing. We are having interest all over our Great State of Texas for TDW membership. Now is the time to pay your membership dues if you have not done so. I challenge each member to sign up a new member.

President Alieca Hux will be traveling to Hood County on January 17 to install new officers. Alieca and I will also make a trip to visit the Henderson County Democratic Women on January 17, 2006 to speak on the H. E. R. Convention theme.

Marcia Mainord

Membership Chair and President-Elect

Resolution to Amend TDW Bylaws

Whereas, the Bylaws state the a membership year is from September through August; and,
Whereas, the current policy is to consider dues paid in May to apply through August of the following year; and,
Whereas, our membership finds it confusing, difficult to understand and hard to remember to renew on time; and,
Whereas, it is a nightmare for local treasurers and membership chairs; and,
Whereas, a January renewal date, with a thirty (30) day grace period, would maximize the numbers reported at the Annual Meeting; therefore
Be it resolved, that a membership year shall be a calendar year, January through December (instead of September through August) and that the Bylaws be amended to reflect this change.

Proposed Amendment to TDW Bylaws, Article VI Dues, Section 2

Currently reads: "Membership dues are payable at the beginning of the fiscal year (September 1st). Renewing members must pay dues each year to be considered a member in good standing for that year."

Amend to read: "Membership dues are payable at the beginning of the 'calendar year (January 1st)'. Renewing members must pay dues each year to be considered a member in good standing for that year"

This amendment will be voted on during the 2006 TDW Convention.

TDW, Hear Us Roar!

Many of you have already heard the news that the Texas Democratic Party is in dire financial straits. They are restructuring into a leaner operation that will cut some of their monthly expenses, but they still (always) need donations to get ready for the 2006 primary and general election. Membership in the Texas Democratic Women has passed 1700 (we're at 1750 as I write this) and we continue to grow. If each of our members could make a donation of at least \$10, the total donation to the TDP would be over \$17,000 — certainly enough to let TDP know that TDW has a voice in Texas politics!

For the "**TDW, Hear Us Roar!**" fund drive for the TDP, donation amounts should end with .99 (e.g., \$9.99, \$10.99, \$100.99, etc.) to indicate that the donor is with TDW. If you wish to charge your donation, or you wish to become a Sustaining Member, go to <http://www.txdemocrats.org/contribute/>. To send your donation via check, print and fill out the form below and mail it and your check to:

Texas Democratic Party
707 Rio Grande Street
Austin, TX 78701-2733

----- Texas Democratic Party Donation Form -----

Name: _____

Address, City, State ZIP: _____

County: _____ Senate District: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Recruited By: **Texas Democratic Women**

The law requires TDP to attribute a contribution to the person who signs the check. Political contributions are not income-tax deductible. Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to federal contribution limits and prohibitions. Individuals and partnerships may contribute \$10,000 each calendar year to our federal committee. The state party also accepts non-federal political contributions and corporate or union treasury donations in accordance with Texas law. Please indicate on your contribution if the funds may not be used federally.

Dues Are Due!

TDW dues and membership lists are due - NOW. November 1 was the extended due date and there are still chapters that I have not heard from. Some I have some memberships, but no chapter dues. Be sure and check with your President and Treasurer on the status with your dues. Remember: no dues, no newsletter, and no voting status at the convention in February. TDW is the organization with the longest history and the largest continuously active group in the Texas Democratic Party. We do make a difference. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you!

Donna Beth McCormick

TDW Treasurer

Texas Democratic Women
PO Box 684906
Austin, TX 78768
www.tdw.org

JOIN US!

2006 TDW Convention
February 24—26, 2006
Austin, TX
Radisson Town Lake

Change of Contact Information

Send any changes of your contact information to our treasurer and our webmaster:

Donna Beth McCormick
donnabethmccormick@tdw.org
and
Linda Allen
webmaster@tdw.org

TDW 5 Minute Activist

Short on time and yet want to make a difference?
Sign up for the *TDW 5 Minute Activist* through our website
(www.tdw.org)

We make making a difference easy.