

# The Connection

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the newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

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## 2005 TDW Retreat in Granbury

Hood County TDW is eager for us all to join them in beautiful Granbury for the 2005 TDW Retreat, July 22 - 23.

The retreat begins Friday evening, July 22 with registration and a meet & greet time followed by two presentations: "The History of TDW" by Jo Ann Jenkins and "Women and the Democratic Party" by Judge Susan Criss.

Saturday morning, following breakfast, are two workshops: PAC 101 led by Jane Hedgepeth and TDW Database led by TDW Webmaster, Linda Allen.

The TDW Summer Board Meeting will be held Saturday afternoon and is open to all members who wish to attend.

There are many opportunities to enjoy the uniqueness of Granbury, for those who wish to do so:

- ◆ Riverboat Cruise: either a Breakfast Brunch or a Murder Mystery Dinner Cruise
- ◆ Hood County Museum housing exhibits and displays of Dave & Elizabeth Crockett, Jesse James, and John Wilkes Booth
- ◆ Horse & Carriage tour through the Historic District
- ◆ Granbury Trolley providing round trips from hotel, attractions, and antique malls through the city and Historic Downtown Square

- ◆ Granbury Live Theatre where Elvis is ALWAYS in the building
- ◆ Granbury Opera House built in 1886 where you can see live plays and music reviews

Make your reservations NOW!  
(Registration Form inserted)

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## Jim Wright Speaks At Hood County TDW Meeting

"He doesn't move as quickly as he did when he patrolled the halls of Congress. But Jim Wright, 82, former Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, hasn't lost his leprechaun-like smile or the twinkle in his bushy-eyebrowed eyes."

This was the opening paragraph from the Hood County News following the May 9 meeting of the Hood County TDW at which Jim Wright was the guest speaker.

He talked about some of the pressing issues of the day, including the partisanship that appears to separate and dominate today's members of Congress. "Sam Rayburn said the greatest asset of leaders is to disagree without being disagreeable. There was a time when members of Congress could debate vigorously on the floor, and then go have a cup of coffee."

For the past 12 years, Wright has taught a class on "Congress and the Presidents" at TCU.

## President's Message



The mission statement of Texas Democratic Women states "TDW promotes the increased political activity and influence of Democratic women in Texas politics and government. TDW works to unite women behind one common goal-----Support of our party and involvement of women in the political process."

I feel very strongly about this mission statement. I believe as we approach the upcoming primary season, it is vital for Texas Democratic Women to adhere to our core principals. While adhering to our primary purpose as an organization, we encourage individuals to work for causes, issues and candidates they wish to support.

I believe that Texas Democratic women can best help elect Democrats by educating, encouraging, supporting and providing financial support for women running for public office. As Democrats, we will undoubtedly have our usual spirited primary season but when it is concluded, we MUST come together to elect Democrats!

Proud to be a Democrat!

*Alieca Hux*

President, Texas Democratic Women

## Midland TDW Member Wins in Special Election

Midland TDW member Barbara Graff won in a special election on April 12<sup>th</sup>. She is the only Democratic female elected county official in Ector County. This election was called January 19<sup>th</sup> after a two-day trial over the outcome of the commissioners election in November. Graff's opponent won the election by 2 votes, but she won the recount after 2 votes were thrown out. Graff's opponent sued her and a judge called for a new election.

Barbara won in a 70 per cent Republican precinct by a margin of 53 to 46 percent. The Midland TDW held a fund raiser for her, block walked, did telephone banking. The TDW web site linked the Midland page with Barbara's information and she was able to raise money by using the resources of Texas Democratic Women.

We congratulate Barbara Graff on a hard-fought campaign!!!

*The next time you hear a politician use the words "billion" casually, think about whether you want that politician spending your tax money.*

*A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into perspective in one of its releases.*

*A billion seconds ago, it was 1959.*

*A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive.*

*A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.*

*A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate Washington spends it.*

## Fall Campaign School Plans in Progress

If you are interested in attending,  
contact Alieca Hux,  
aliecahux@tdw.org,  
or  
903-885-3246

## What's Next!

The Anderson County Chapter of TDW decided not to wait until next year to be prepared for the elections that will be in 2006. We wanted to be informed so we could act against the lies that the Republicans spread during campaigns.

We are hosting programs of the Top Five things that our Club listed as priorities. The name of this program is "What's Next!". The top five are: Social Security, Medicare, Honesty in Politics, Ethics, and Media. Other areas of concern were: Deficit Spending; Unfunded Mandates (e.g., "No Child Left Behind"); Health Care Insurance; Separation of Church and State; Religious Persecution; Health Care Insurance; Politics of Personal Destruction; and Polarization.

Our first one was held May 18 on Social Security. We will go down the list and do one or two each month. After all facts are collected, we will compile these to be ready for newspapers for printing or at forums where the Candidates speak.

We hope other Clubs will attend or do something like this in your own Chapters. WE CAN NOT wait! Now is the time for action in being prepared.

Marge Cathey  
President, Anderson County TDW  
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## Women Fleeing Republican Party

More and more American women are fed up with President Bush's failed policies, from his disastrous scheme for Social Security to rising budget deficits and his ineffective health care policies. Women who voted for President Bush just months ago are flocking to the Democratic Party because George Bush and the Republicans have focused on a partisan power grab instead of addressing the issues that will have a real impact on women's lives.

A new poll finds that women who voted for the President in November are now coming back to the Democratic Party: "The memo, released by Lake Snell Perry Mermin & Associates Inc., found women picked unnamed Democratic congressional candidates over Republicans by a 13-point margin." The memo also "found that women are now mostly concerned with economic security (28 percent said it was their number one issue), health care (22 percent), homeland security and terrorism (21 percent), retirement security (15 percent) and crime (6 percent)." [Washington Post, 5/10/05]

"Women know that Democrats share their values and are fighting for the things that will make a difference in the lives of their families and children," said DNC Chairman, Gov. Howard Dean. "Democrats understand the challenges our families are facing, that's why we want to get our country back on track. We need to get to work on policies that will create jobs, ensure access to affordable health care and preserve the fundamental promise of Social Security. Women know that the policies of President Bush and his extreme Republican Congress do not benefit hard-working women."

DNC Press Release, May 10, 2005  
Christy R. Agner  
Democratic National Committee  
202-488-5035

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## Meet The Communicator

A new communication vehicle has been designed to maintain regular contact between the TDW Board and chapter presidents and to communicate activities and events between issues of The Connection. The Communicator will be mailed to chapter presidents on an as-needed basis. Chapter Presidents: share your chapter's activities with me, [ckh127@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ckh127@sbcglobal.net), and I will include them in The Communicator. If you are not receiving The Communicator, check your address against that in the TDW database on the TDW Website **AND** contact me. We want to have clear, complete, and regular communication with the local chapters, but we can do that only if we have good membership information from the chapters.

Thank you!

*Carolyn Harvey*

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### Newsletter Ideas

**The Connection** is published quarterly. The next issue will be mailed September 14, 2005. Send your ideas for stories, columns, or news **by September 7, 2005** to:

Linda B. Conger at  
[lbconger@earthlink.net](mailto:lbconger@earthlink.net), or  
P. O. Box 4411, Horseshoe Bay, TX 78657 or  
Fax to 830.596.2501  
(call 830.596.2972 before sending fax)

### Change of Contact Information

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

Donna Beth McCormick  
[donnabethmccormick@tdw.org](mailto:donnabethmccormick@tdw.org)  
and  
Linda Allen  
[webmaster@tdw.org](mailto: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](http://www.tdw.org))

We make making a difference easy.