



## March 3, 2019 Newsletter

### Registration Underway for Blue Ribbon Lobby Day, April 2

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#### President's Message



Thanks to TDW members working as a team, our Convention was absolutely fabulous!

We were inspired by the warm welcome TDW received from Delia Garza, the first Latina elected Mayor Pro Tem of Austin, and greetings conveyed by Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa on behalf of the Texas Democratic Party, by the Honorable Celina Vasquez on behalf of the Democratic National Committee, and by the Honorable Susan Shelton on behalf of the National Federation of Democratic Women.

A variety of speakers shared their knowledge, starting late Friday afternoon with a presentation by Sue Barrick, outgoing TDW VP, on Website Matters and Membership Database Management. Saturday afternoon offered a full program, featuring Dr. Carla Brailey, TDP Vice Chair, sharing her inside knowledge of making the system work for our community, and Laila Mohib, of Emerge America discussing how to inspire women to run and help them develop the skills to win Texas. State Senator Beverly Powell and State Representative Gina Hinojosa discussed the ABC's of Public Education during our second session, while Kenna Giffin, TDW Treasurer discussed filing without fear for chapter treasurers. The Honorable Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar described his ongoing, massive voter registration work, while Sue Weninger and Samantha Fields of TDW South Plains delivered a great discussion on generational diversity awareness and how we can work together. Thank you, TDW members and guest speakers for our workshops.

Thank you to Representative Nicole Collier, recipient of the Dr. Mae Jackson Award and Mr. Mike Collier, recipient of the Oscar Mauzy Humanitarian Award, and to the courageous women who traveled the State of Texas as our candidates for statewide office, Honorable Lupe Valdez, for Governor; Kim Olson, for Agriculture Commissioner; Joi Chevalier, for Comptroller; and our newly elected Chief Justice Dori Contreras.

A big thank you also to our Chapters and individual members for their assistance with our Convention: Tarrant County, Hood County TDW, TDW of the South Plains, Kat Sanders, and Bill and Vali Brannon. And thank you to all our Sponsors.

We all also owe a big debt of gratitude to Cindy James. She did a tremendous job and went above and beyond the call of duty through a time of personal sorrow to serve as our President last year. Thank you Madam (past) President!

Maria Regalado, President

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#### TDW 2019-20 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Maria Regalado  
**President-Elect:** Sue Barrick  
**VP:** Kassandra Elejarza  
**Secretary:** Mary Elizabeth Terry  
**Treasurer:** Kenna Giffiin



**At-Large Board Members:**  
 Janet Dudding  
 Otilia Buantello Enriquez  
 Laura Nicol  
**Immediate Past President:**  
 Cindy James

*Photo by Shirley Ledford*

**TDW ADVISORY BOARD OF PAST PRESIDENTS**

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 Kellie Bailey  
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Marcia Mainord  
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 Tammie Hartgroves  
 Laura Allen  
 Susan Shelton  
 Carol Jablonski

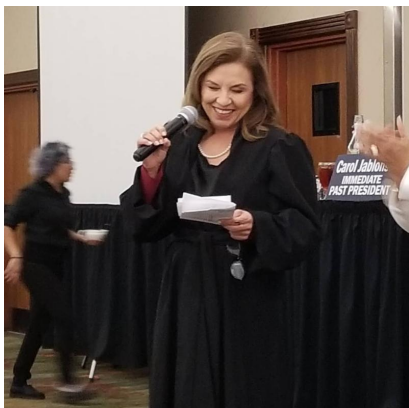
**Convention Sights - photos by Dave Maben**



**Kim Olson & "Ann Richards" Friday night**



**Austin Mayor Pro Tem Delia Garza welcomes TDW Saturday morning**



**Chief Justice Dori Contreras installs the newly-elected TDW Board**



**Johnson County and Rural North Texas members enjoy the Star Awards Luncheon**



**Cindy James presents a President's Award to the TDW Past Presidents**



**Maria Regalado and Cindy James**

### **Chapters - Please note**

If your Chapter has not submitted its annual charter renewal, the cost went up \$10 on March 1, so please send your chapter's renewal of \$50 to: TDW treasurer Kenna Giffin at PO Box 397, Mission, TX 78573.

And, if you haven't already, please email your list of 2019-2020 officers to [VP Kassandra Elejarza](#).

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Almost Here . . .**

- **Blue Ribbon Lobby Day**, April 2 at the Capitol in Austin.

#### **Save the Date**

- **Summer Retreat 2019**, July 27 in Lubbock.

### **Don't Miss out - Sign up now for Blue Ribbon Lobby Day**

**Tuesday, April 2 is Equal Pay Day**, which falls when the number of days extra a woman needs to work to earn the same as a man in an equivalent job does in a calendar year. It is also the day that TDW members and allied progressive women's organizations will gather at the Capitol to let our elected officials know the issues that matter most to us. This is a great chance to put your ideals into action.

Blue Ribbon Lobby Day registration is just \$30. It includes lunch, activist training and lobbying materials as well as a pre-arranged appointment with your legislator or their staff, but only if you sign up soon, as the legislators' schedules fill up fast. You can sign up [here](#).



### **NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS**

Please help us make this a better newsletter that represents the wonderful diversity of our statewide organization!

Photos and stories about your Chapter's events for next month's newsletter can be sent at any time to [VP Kassandra Elejarza](#).

### **Highland Lakes**

The Highland Lakes Democratic Women gathered Thursday, February 28, at Meadowlakes Restaurant for their monthly business meeting and luncheon.

Nancy Hill, chapter President, recognized four HLDW members who were honored with Star Awards at the recent Texas Democratic Women state convention. The Star Award is presented to women who have made significant contributions to their local chapters. HLDW recipients are Marjorie Dearmont, Mary Doran, Paula d'Orsogna and Marti Pogue.

Hill reminded the group that supporting candidates in local elections is a key goal for 2019. She recognized two chapter members who currently hold elected office in the Highland Lakes area – Mary

Ann Raesener, Mayor of Meadowlakes, and Jane Scheidler, City Council Member in Bertram.

Barbara Baruch, chapter Vice President, issued a rousing call to members to run for local office as she introduced guest speakers Philippa Wood, Training Director and Cliff Walker, Deputy Director of the Texas Democratic Party. Wood and Walker discussed considerations for women contemplating a run. They addressed concerns many women have that make them hesitant to pursue political office, and shared the type and variety of resources the Party offers to support candidates. The Party's support extends to city, county and school district positions, whether partisan or nonpartisan. They echoed Baruch's challenge to members to consider running at the local level.

HLDW meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:15am at Meadowlakes Restaurant; reservations are required. A \$15 charge to cover the cost of lunch is payable at check-in. Please contact Pat Myers at [pimyrs47@gmail.com](mailto:pimyrs47@gmail.com) or call 512 755-3133 for reservations.

The chapter also gathers informally the third Wednesday of each month from 5pm to 7pm at Doc's Restaurant in Marble Falls. Come join us for food, fun and fellowship. No reservations required. - Terry Flanagan [droppable-1551728377098](mailto:droppable-1551728377098)



Left to right: Cliff Walker, Deputy Director of the Texas Democratic Party, Jane Scheidler, Bertram City Council member and Phillipa Wood, TDP Training Director.



Left to right: Cliff Walker, Deputy Director of the Texas Democratic Party, Mary Ann Raesener, Mayor of Meadowlakes, and Phillipa Wood, TDP Training Director.

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## Hill Country Chapter March Meeting

**Please join Hill Country TDW members for their Tuesday, March 5 meeting** at the Ray and Joan Kroc Center, Holdsworth Drive in Kerrville, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Acclaimed author and member of the board of directors of Equality Texas, Jo Ivester, will speak from her own experience to address "Why Equality Texas Matters: A Story of a Family with a Transgender Son." She will also present an overview of Equality Texas' work in the legislature to address current challenges and opportunities facing the LGBTQ community.

Ivester speaks to a wide range of audiences, from small book clubs to entire schools, using her personal stories as a means to make people more comfortable with those who are different from them with regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identification. Her 2015 work, *The Outskirts of Hope*, is a moving, inspirational memoir about how living and working in an all-black town during the height of the civil rights movement profoundly affected the author's entire family—and how they in turn impacted the community.

She holds a bachelor of science in civil engineering from MIT and an MBA from Stanford University. She worked for many years in transportation and operations management before teaching as an adjunct professor in the business school of St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Mother and grandmother, she and her husband live in Austin.

Among Ivester's accolades are the Wall Street Journal Best-Seller List for non-fiction e-books; NPR Selection for its National Weekly Feature, Author's Corner; Writers' League of Texas Best Non-fiction for 2015; 2015 National Indie Excellence Award for Autobiography; Jewish Book Council Non-fiction Book of the Week in December, 2016; Kirkus, Booklist, and Story Circle Reviews and 2015-2016 Sarton Women's Book Award; silver medal for memoirs.

A book-signing will follow the meeting. Copies of *The Outskirts of Hope* will be on sale for \$10. A luncheon buffet, beginning at 11 a.m. will be available for \$15.00; for luncheon reservations call Linda Stegall at 830-257-2795 or email her at [lindastegall@hotmail.com](mailto:lindastegall@hotmail.com). To attend the program only, beginning at 11:40, please write or call Linda so that adequate seating will be available.- Jeannie Berger

Send your articles and photos to VicePresident@TDW.org - we want to promote you!

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