



*Texas Democratic Women*

## Quarterly Newsletter

**From President Sue Barrick . . .**



The 2020 Annual Meeting and Convention is a wrap! For those who could not attend, this is my story of a very eventful weekend. Donna Lipman, co-author of [Beyond Resistance - Coping with the Stress of the Trump Era](#) was a welcome presence, from her rendition of [Older Ladies](#) with fellow Texas Lovebirds member Donnalou Stevens Friday night, to the Star Awards Luncheon keynote address and two breakout sessions she presented Saturday afternoon. Kendall Scudder and Lillian Salerno of [Pod Bless Texas](#) entertained Friday evening and hosted an impromptu visit from Diana Lancaster Taylor traveling Texas on behalf of the Bloomberg campaign.

Saturday morning, State Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa and Democratic National Committee Member Betty Richie impressed on us the importance of winning Texas, for the nation and the world. TDW members adopted a cohesive set of revised Bylaws streamlined to eliminate inconsistencies and clarify duties for the Bylaws and Membership Committees. The Convention also voted in an outstanding group of 2020 officers who personify the diversity of Texas Democratic women - we can expect great things from this Board! At the Star Awards Luncheon, a total of 30 TDW members and one Chapter were honored. 2019-20 President María Regalado bestowed President's Awards on outgoing TDW Treasurer Kenna Giffin (Rio Grande Valley) and Past Presidents Cindy James (Tarrant County) and Tammie Hartgroves (Central Texas).

Candidates for offices from State Representative to U.S. Senate addressed members during an afternoon Forum. It was inspiring to hear from the number of judicial candidates vying for statewide seats on the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals as well as lower Courts. There was even time for two hours of breakout sessions afterwards, covering Voter ID and GOTV, Taking TDW to Rural Texas, the afore-mentioned workshops by Donna Lipman, orientation for new officers, and the National Federation of Democratic Women.

The convention concluded with a sold out Gala Awards Dinner where State Representative Terry Meza of Irving received the Dr. Mae Jackson Outstanding Democratic Woman Officeholder Award. Genevieve Van Cleve of Austin gave the keynote address. She is the State Director of All On the Line, the National Democratic Redistricting Committee campaign to promote redistricting reform and participation in the 2020 Census. We can look forward to hearing more from her at the [Summer Retreat](#) in Decatur.

If you are reading this, you know the stakes this year. If there was ever a time to stand tall and step up, this is it. Whatever our differences now during the Primary season, TDW members will be ready unite behind our slate to stop four more years of Republican misrule. We will be on the front lines registering new voters and seeing them to the polls. Thank you for all of the work you are doing now and that yet to come. Yes, we can win Texas!

Onward,  
Sue Barrick  
TDW President 2020-21

## Chapters - Bylaws Roundup!

Chapter Presidents, please email your current Chapter Bylaws to TDW Bylaws Chair, [Susan Shelton](#).

And, if you haven't already, please email your list of 2020-21 officers to [VP Cassandra Elejarza](#).

## Mark Those Calendars

### Coming soon

- SDEC Meeting March 14 in Waco

### Will be here before we know it

- TDP State Convention June 4 - 6 in San Antonio
- TDW Summer Retreat July 31 -August 1 in Decatur

## Getting to Know TDW's New Board Members at Large

TDW's newly-elected executive officers were introduced in their candidate profiles in the January newsletter. All three new board members at large, however, were elected from the floor, so they were invited to introduce themselves in this issue.



### Heidi Gordon

I'm a transplant from the New England, leaving Boston to join the US Air Force in 1987. My first duty assignment was Berlin, Germany where I served in the intelligence field as a Russian Linguist. What made it most memorable was my standing on the Berlin Wall on the night the Wall fell, November 9, 1989. I still see the footage on TV and cherish being part of such a historic celebration.

Now I'm fighting against another wall while serving in Texas as a full time activist, belonging to organizations such as the League of Women Voters, the Mainland Coalition of Black Democrats, the Galveston County Democratic Party as a Precinct Chair and, of course, Texas Democratic Women. I co-founded the Galveston County chapter of TDW in 2017 with seven other women and served two years as the chapter's president. I am currently TDW-GC Treasurer and am honored to have been elected to the State Board of TDW in February 2020. One of my biggest joys is event planning and fundraising so I hope to bring these skills to the state organization as I've done for our chapter. My core values are women's empowerment, political inclusion, diversity, and social and restorative justice. I'm proud of our chapter's diversity, including on our board. I've been married to Frank Gordon for over 14 years and we have three dachshunds: Piper; Stormy; and Gracie. They keep me sane through it all.



### Judy Summers

I was born and raised in Houston. As an alumnus of Texas Tech, I graduated before it was a University, which gives a hint of how old I am. As a single Mom, I raised my three children in California, where I worked in HR and property management. When an empty nest presented itself I began traveling and working in a lot of interesting jobs that allowed me to travel and meet people from all backgrounds. At the age of 68 I served for 2 years in Africa with the Peace Corps.

In 2011 I returned to Texas to help with family health issues and got connected with the Anderson County TDW Chapter. I have twice been elected for the Star Award and work with Voter Registration and GOTV. I serve as an election judge in the county. My goals as a member at large on the TDW board are to reach out in support to the rural chapters in East Texas and bring their issues back to the Board.

My hobbies are traveling, quilting, reading and serving my community. I have traveled to over 40 countries and lived in 4. I work part-time to fund my love of travel and quilt and read in-between.



### Janice Thacker

My husband and I live in Rusk, the county seat of Cherokee County, where we raised our 2 girls and one boy. We have been blessed with five grand children and we have one on the way!

I am a former employee of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice where I served in the medical field as a licensed phlebotomist. Currently, I am employed by the Rusk Independent School District as a school bus monitor. I also am a substitute teacher for the Rusk Primary and Elementary Schools.

I am past Vice President of Cherokee County TDW and presently serve as President of our local chapter. I have held the position of President for the past three years. I have had the honor to serve as

Precinct 24 Chair in Cherokee County for the past 7 years. I also serve as Deputy Field Director for Senate District 3, where I focus primarily on the non-urban rural areas of the District.

I look forward to serving as Board Member At Large with the Texas Democratic Women. The perspective I bring to the Board is my desire to share with other counties my knowledge and understanding of what is necessary to increase Democratic turnout especially in the rural areas. I have personally invested thousands of hours in block walking, texting, phone banking, and registering voters for the past seven years. My desire is to share that which I have learned as an activist with as many other TDW chapters as possible

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## Thank You, TDW Convention 2020 Sponsors & Advertisers!

**Plumbers  
Union  
Local 68**



Congressman Lloyd Doggett  
Congressman Marc Veasey  
Justice Gisela Triana  
Judge Amy Clark Meachum  
Judge Darlene Byrne  
State Senator Carol Alvarado  
State Senator Beverly Powell  
State Senator Royce West  
State Senator Judith Zaffirini

Travis County House Delegation,  
State Representative Donna Howard  
State Representative Dr. Alma A. Allen  
State Representative Eddie Lucio III  
State Representative Ramon Romero, Jr.  
SDEC 16 Committeewoman Susan Bradley  
Cathy Cheng  
Elizabeth Davis Frizell  
Brandy Voss

Susan Shelton, National Federation  
of Democratic Women  
North Dallas TDW, Lenna Webb  
Southeast Texas TDW  
TDW Past Presidents  
Tarrant County Democratic Woman's Club  
Susan Barrick  
Carol Jablonski  
Genevieve Van Cleve

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## Still Deciding? Reaching Out to Undecided Voters?

The League of Women Voters of Texas provides a non-partisan Voters Guide to the Primary Election that can be helpful. It can be downloaded from their website in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#).

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## Membership Committee Update

The Membership Committee is off and running for 2020 under the leadership of returning committee Chair Barbara Gardner (Harris County Metro Area). Membership Committee duties were specified in greater detail in the newly revised TDW Bylaws. According to Barbara, the committee will initially focus on continuing efforts to establish new TDW Chapters and its newly articulated charge to provide training. Training aimed at helping Chapters become stronger and more effective will be a critical part of TDW's preparation for the November election. Watch for more to come on training!



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### 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 Cassandra Elejarza](#).

**Bexar County Democratic Women** in the San Antonio metroplex has been gearing up for the 2020 elections by engaging new, present, and past members. The chapter meets at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the AFL-CIO San Antonio office at Computer Drive.

Past meetings have featured Deputy Voter Registrar training, November Constitutional amendments information and election results analysis, a non-perishable food drive donation for Thanksgiving, and a Holiday Meet & Greet Social at the La Gloria-Dominion restaurant including donations to the Magdalena House, a local women's shelter. Attendees also get opportunities to make new like-minded friends and to hear and meet Democratic Party candidates at the end of each meeting.

Future efforts will support voter registration, marching for important issues, phone-banking, post-card writing, and block-walking to GOTV in Bexar County. BCDW looks forward to greeting members of other TDW chapters at the 2020 Texas Democratic Party State Convention to be held in San Antonio in June.

Please like us on Facebook to see interesting articles and information on our coming meetings and events! - Submitted by Emma Preciado

**Highland Lakes Democratic Women** will hear from Austin activist and advocate, Sharon Blythe (pictured, right) at their February 27 luncheon and meeting at the Meadowlakes Restaurant in Marble Falls. Check-in begins at 11:15am, lunch and the business meeting begin at noon, followed by the speaker.

Sharon Blythe graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in psychology. After having a family, Sharon returned to college and obtained a CPA designation along with other professional certificates. She had a 30 year career as a CPA in public accounting and the State of Texas. She retired from all accounting related work in 2014.



Sharon became an activist relating to matters involving the City of Austin in 1991 after the City attempted to develop over a historic cemetery. She continued to advocate for the cemeteries over the years when the city entertained additional proposals for development encroachment. In addition to the cemetery work, she led neighborhood group's efforts to protect property rights from the city of Austin who attempted to construct a huge water tunnel through their neighborhoods.

Currently, she is involved with a political action committee to obtain enough petition signatures to recall the Mayor of the city of Austin and five City Council members after they voted to allow transients to camp anywhere in Austin without any restrictions with no real plans to house them.

HLDW meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

A \$15 charge to cover the cost of lunch is payable at check-in. Reservations are required.

For more information, our website is [hldw.club](http://hldw.club) or check our Facebook page at [facebook.com/highlandlakesdemocraticwomen](https://facebook.com/highlandlakesdemocraticwomen).

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## Fired Up, Yes - Burned Out, No

Donna Lipman shared a list of "Tips to Help You Through Politically Chaotic Times" at Convention, that is presented here with slight modifications. Bernice King, the daughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King posted most of them online awhile back, but they are good to keep in mind as we take on the Republican machine in 2020.

1. Don't use his name.
2. Remember this is a regime and he's not acting alone.
3. Do not argue with those who support him - it doesn't work.
4. Focus on his policies, not his orange-ness and mental state.
5. Keep your message positive - they want the country angry and fearful because this is the soil from which their darkest policies will grow.
6. No more helpless/hopeless talk.
7. Support artists and the arts.
8. Be careful not to spread fake news - check it.
9. Take care of yourselves.
10. Resist!
11. Keep demonstrations peaceful. As John Lennon said, "once they've got you violent, then they know how to handle you." What they don't know how to handle is non-violence and humor.
12. When you post or talk about him, attribute his actions to the Republican Administration, or Republicans. It will deny him the attention he craves, and they will have to take responsibility for their association with him or stand up against what they don't like.
13. Keep paying attention, and keep up the pressure.
14. Stay optimistic, but don't get complacent. If you won't fight for what you believe in, who will? It will take all of us. United together we can handle this.
15. Vote!

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## TDW 2020-2021 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Sue Barrick  
**President-Elect:** Mary Terry  
**VP:** Kassandra Elejarza  
**Secretary:** Vicki Moore

**Treasurer:**Joyce Franklin  
**At-Large Board Members:**  
Heidi Gordon  
Judy Summers  
Janice Thacker

**Immediate Past President:**  
Mari Regalado

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Send your articles and photos to [VicePresident@TDW.org](mailto:VicePresident@TDW.org) - we want to promote you!

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STAY CONNECTED

