



MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Keep up to date - read President Carol Jablonski's inspiring letter, register for TDW Summer Retreat, and a great article by NDTDW's President on building membership. Scroll down to read.

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

President's Letter

As I sit writing this column on Mother's Day Weekend, I am appalled at the hypocrisy of our conservative elected officials. I imagine almost all of them are taking their wives and mothers out to brunch and rhapsodizing about how wonderful these women are. Yet the other 364 days of the year, they are hell bent on making motherhood less easy to plan, more expensive and, for many women, more dangerous. For example, legislators in the state of Texas are determined to stop Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood even though unplanned pregnancies are up and maternal deaths are rising. The so-called "Freedom Caucus" killed a bill to investigate the causes of increased maternal deaths. There is a bill to force women getting abortions "with complications" to provide intrusive and unneeded information.

The United States is the only wealthy country in the world in which the rate of maternal deaths is rising. Both the lack of pre-natal and post-natal care and the quality of that care contribute to this fact. However, on the federal side, conservatives are just as unconcerned about women's health as the Texas legislature. The new American Health Care Act would make it more difficult and expensive for women to get the care that they need. With its cutbacks in Medicaid coverage and defunding Planned Parenthood, the country is



likely to see an increase in Medicaid births from women who can't obtain contraception. The estimated increase in premiums for pregnancy coverage will make it more difficult for many women to have healthy pregnancies.

Not to be outdone, President Trump has appointed Teresa Manning as deputy assistant secretary for population affairs for the Department of Health and Human Services. As such, she will be in charge of Title X, the only federal grant plan that is dedicated to providing comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. Ms. Manning has said that she does not believe that contraception is effective, that family planning is not the federal government's business and that use of contraception goes hand in hand with increased abortions.

We have to stop these and many other attacks on women, as well as others. We need to constantly tell our elected officials that this is not acceptable and that they will pay in their next election. Then, we have to make them pay in 2018. The bill doing away with one punch voting for a particular party may make this more difficult, but success is by no means impossible. In my own area of North Texas I am seeing great candidates come forward to challenge Congressman Pete Sessions and State Senator Don Huffines. There are impressive candidates for the Texas State House also. These folks are working to make your life better and need your support to do so. Please help!

Your President,
Carol Jablonski



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Summer Retreat

Summer Retreat - August 4-6, 2017 at the Canyon of the Eagles Resort, Lake Buchanan, Burnet County.

Details to register :

Register for the retreat on Act Blue - click here: - <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/hldwevent>

Cost of the Retreat is \$65 for TDW members until July 4, then \$75. Non TDW members, \$75. Cost includes a buffet lunch on Saturday.

Register for your room by calling the hotel: (512) 334-2070, and use TDW group code - 02442. All types of rooms are \$142 per night. Website - [Canyon of the Eagles Resort](#)



You cannot afford to miss this wonderful

outdoor retreat - truly a get-away TDW

Summer Retreat.



How to Build Your Membership

North Dallas TDW Gives Ideas ~

Have New Members Who Want Action?

I have heard that many TDW clubs are "suffering" from a plethora of new members who are all fired up and they want to do something and the clubs are searching for clues as to what to have them do. North Dallas Texas Democratic Women has gotten almost 150 brand new members, not renewals, since the first of the year and we had to face this same problem.

First, we experimented with listing our club as an [Indivisible Group](#) which then gets you weekly updates on Congressional activity and suggestions for actions. As a club, you tailor it to your members and send the information on. Most of the actions involve making phone calls or visits to your representatives or joining a march or protest somewhere. When sending out the information on calls to your legislators, be sure to always include their

phone numbers, no matter how many times you have given it our before. People are much more likely to make the call right then if they do not have to stop and look up the number.

The only problem that NDTDW found with being part of Indivisible was that we could not really track our member's actions and in the Dallas area, there are **42 Indivisible Groups** within 20 miles of my zip code alone. We decided that we needed another approach for the club which we found by watching the classes on-line at the [Resistance School](#) which was formed by the students for the Kennedy School at Harvard University. After just the first two sessions, it became clear to me that the only way forward right now is to start **changing minds** and **motivating people** to be active participants in the **elections of 2018**. **Persuasion is the key**, and the school gives you the philosophy and the techniques of how to interact with individuals and groups who do not, on the surface, share your progressive ideas. To persuade them to our side, we need to identify specifically our progressive values for specific issues and build the "frames" to use when talking about those values. George Lakoff's book "Don't Think of an Elephant" explains all about frames.

NDTDW's next step was to form working groups around four issues: GOTV, NextGen (our younger generations), Education and Healthcare. First, we tried to get these individual groups to meet and work on their own, but that proved difficult, so we have set up an additional NDTDW meeting each month for these groups to meet and work under the guidance of our board members. The advantage of this is that our board members are seasoned veterans of political and issue wars and can guide these newcomers. The advantage to everyone, is that these newcomers have great ideas and energy to offer.

Those groups are focusing first on identifying our values and then putting the vocabulary together that we will use when "persuading" others that our values are the same as their values. When we use the IRS method (**Inquire** what the other person values; truly **R elate** to that person by active listening; and **Share** your stories about the values you discover you have in common) you set up a situation that opens up the possibility of that person seeing how they **really are Democrats!** We don't use facts; we don't lecture! We **listen** and find out what **shared values we have!**

Beyond these two first steps, we will be doing research on the issues and staying up to date on what is happening legislatively. Then the groups develop action plans on how to put all we have learned to work

I strongly suggest that your board first go on-line and watch all four session of the Resistance School so that you fully understand what is being taught, then tailor for your club how you will put your new members to work on persuading voters to vote for Progressive, Democratic candidates in 2018! But you must start now!

Lenna Webb, President, North Dallas Texas Democratic Woman



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