

The Connection

December 2006

The newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

Issue 14, Volume 4

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Visit the TDW website at
www.tdw.org

"Growing ... Grassroots Style" 2007 TDW State Convention



Start 2007 Growing...Grassroots Style! Be a part of the 20th Anniversary celebration of TDW by attending the State Convention March 2, 3, 4 at the Wyndham Hotel and Woodard Convention Center in Austin.

The primary goal of the weekend is our yearly business meeting and workshops offering Chapter development ideas. Along with the business there will be time to meet your fellow TDW members at events such as Ester's Follies, Stars luncheon, and awards dinner.

The forms for our 2007 TDW convention are enclosed with this newsletter and also available on our website. Please pay special attention to the due dates. TDW is offering a special "**20th Anniversary**" package. This is a great way to enjoy the entire convention. The hotel rates are really good, as well as **NO PARKING FEES!** Please call early and book your rooms.

The Legislature will be in session and what better way to show our Democratic support than Democratic women taking over Austin for a weekend!

(See **EVENTS CALENDAR**—page 4 for deadlines)

Remembering



Ann Richards

(Born Lakeview Texas
September 31, 1933.
Died Austin, Texas
September 13, 2006)

Her political career began in 1976 as a member of the Travis County Commissioners Court. After which she became the first woman in 50 years elected to state office, in 1982 as State Treasurer for which she served 2 terms. Then in 1991 she was the first woman elected as Texas Governor and worked the next 4 years in building the "New Texas".

Thank you Governor for your service to Texas and the nation. You will be missed, but will remain an inspiration to all women.

"I have very strong feeling on how you lead your life. You always look ahead, you never look back." Ann Richards

Women's Legislative Days "Uniting Women for Fairness & Equality"

January 28-29, 2007 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 South I-35 in Austin.

This important effort is jointly sponsored by Texas Democratic Women, League of Women Voters, Austin Women's Political Caucus, AAUW, and many others.

Single rooms are available, \$72; double suites, \$109. Please see the WLD website--txwld.org to register on line. **Early registration is \$35; \$50 at the door.**

Workshops will provide suggestions and models for lobbying. You will also have interactive opportunities for practicing these skills. Buses will be available to transport attendees to the Capitol for lobbying. Be a part of this great effort to lobby our elected officials on those matters that matter to us!!

Volunteers needed! Please contact Linda Leff, lkleff@earthlink.net if you can help.

President's Message



The elections are over and the **Blue tide has turned!** Nationally, the Democrats now control of both Houses of Congress! We will have **Nancy Pelosi** as the first women elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. In Texas we retained all of our Democratic incumbent seats in the house and elected **6** new Democrats!

Four of these are women: **Donna Howard** (special election), **Valinda Bolton**, **Ellen Cohen**, and **Paula Pierson Hightower**. Democrats also elected **Diane Henson** to the 3rd Court of Appeals. Congratulations to all these women!

This is a very positive position for the Texas Democratic Party! We did not get this way over night and it will take more than one election for us to recover----it is an excellent start! We must continue to work hard and work together to Take Back Texas.

Texas Democratic Women all over the state worked very hard for our state and local candidates. Job well done. TDW is very proud of **ALL** the candidates from local to state who put their time, hard earned money and tireless hours to make Texas a stronger and better place, especially our own, **Harriet Miller**, **Sharon Davis** and **Katy Hubner**. Even if we did not win all that we had hoped, the Republicans know that we are fighting back!



Happy Holidays to you and your families



Proud to be a Democrat!

Alieca Hux

President, Texas Democratic Women

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Remember...our new membership renewals begin January 1, 2007. Start rounding up your members and hopefully signing some new ones on to your membership rolls. TDW has something to be very proud of—2007 marks our 20th anniversary - 20 years of successfully involving women in Texas politics. To commemorate this historic year, TDW will be offering a specially designed 20th Anniversary pin for those members that choose to join at the Finance Council level.

Our elections are finally swinging our way, let's get our support ready at the bat for a victorious home run!

Marcia Mainord

Membership Chair and President-Elect



A Big TEXAS Congratulations to Senator Leticia Van de Putte

During the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) 2006 annual meeting **Senator Van de Putte (Texas District 26)** was elected to become the first Texas legislator and first Hispanic to lead the organization as President.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that provides a forum where legislators can share ideas and develop ideas for identifying and solving problems that face the country.

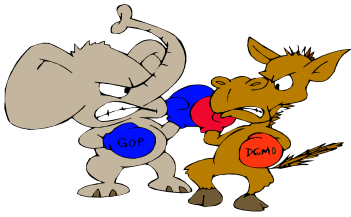
In her capacity as president-elect of NCSL, **Senator Van de Putte** has already facilitated a bipartisan task force on immigration reform. Although Immigration is under federal jurisdiction it affects state governments, especially in Texas. This forum allowed state legislators to form consensus policy as debate continues on a federal level.

Thank you.....

Dear Fellow TDW Members,

I want to express my gratitude for what you do to help get Democratic candidates elected in our state. Fellow Democrats share my values. They care about people first. They put the needs of our children, families and senior citizens above special interests.

Sharon Davis, District 8 candidate.



2006 STATE ELECTION RECAP

Democrats' Successes of 2006

(by Betty Richie)



BIGGEST LOSER

Dr. James Leininger of San Antonio.

This year alone, Leininger poured at least \$5 million into the GOP primary and the general election to advance the cause of publicly funded vouchers for private schools. By one calculation, Leininger now has nine fewer votes in the House than he did a year and \$5 million ago.



BIGGEST WINNER

The people of TEXAS!!!!!!!

MOVING TEXAS FORWARD
2006...2007...2008, and Beyond!

- ⇒ The Democrats won 5 seats in the Texas House. The Democrats kicked down the door! (Counting Donna Howard it is 6 in '06).
- ⇒ This was won on the Republicans redistricting turf.
- ⇒ The Democrats held on to EVERY incumbent Democratic seat!
- ⇒ In January, Republicans will have lost more than half of their majority. Four years ago, Republicans had a 13-vote majority in the Texas House. Now it is six.
- ⇒ Every Democrat on the Dallas County ticket won!
- ⇒ It is the first time that an African American has become District Attorney in Dallas County and he won on the Democratic ticket
- ⇒ Hayes and Travis County went Democratic
- ⇒ Chet Edwards won his congressional seat with almost 60% of the vote. George W. Bush has a Democratic Congressman. Congressman Edwards represents Crawford, Texas.
- ⇒ Rick Perry won with 60% of Texans not approving of his governorship
- ⇒ Nick Lampson won the congressional seat held by Tom DeLay
- ⇒ Democrats have the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- ⇒ Straight Democratic voting in the 10 top Texas counties by population was more than the GOP on election day.



CHAPTER NEWS

BELL COUNTY— Nancy Glasscock, Chapter President.

Betty Richie was the featured speaker at BCTDW is extremely honored to host advancing the Democratic cause through-teewoman, past TDW President and wife of was held December 9, 2006, 11:00 am at Salado. The event included Officer Installation and a silent auction.



this year's Bell County TDW annual Christmas Luncheon. The Betty. We are proud of her many notable accomplishments in out Texas and at the national level. Betty is a DNCC Commit-Texas Democratic Party Chairman Boyd Richie. The luncheon the Stagecoach Inn ~ Garden Room in beautiful downtown

ERATH COUNTY— Marcy Tanter, Chapter President.

On Oct. 6 as a fundraiser for Mary Beth Harrell we watched the gubernatorial debate, ate pizza and brownies and had some good Democratic talk. We are in the process of helping Democratic students at Tarleton State University get their new College Democrats organization up and running. We've got a great group of students here and we look forward to working with them.





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

TDW MEMBERS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2007

Jan 1 2007 TDW membership renewal due.

19 Nomination forms for Convention due.

28 Women's Legislative — Days—Wyndham Gardens Hotel – Austin
29

Feb 9 State Convention Hotel Reservations due.

20 Deadline for early convention registration

21 Late Registration for Convention (addtl. \$10)

Mar 2-4 **TDW State Convention:** Wyndham Gardens Hotel & Woodward Con-

Thank you.....

To the national, state, and local Democratic candidates for their efforts in the November 2006 elections.



"Ann Richards was the most alive person I have ever known: let's keep her that way, in our hearts".

Liz Smith (Columnist) - Ann Richards memorial service
 September 18, 2006

Change of Contact Information

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

Wilma Allen
wilmaallen@tdw.org
 and
 Linda Allen
webmaster@tdw.org

The Connection is published quarterly. Send Chapter "happenings" or ideas for stories, columns, or news to...

newsletter@tdw.org

2007 deadlines for submission of articles

- ⇒ **March 16th**
- ⇒ **June 11th**
- ⇒ **September 7th**
- ⇒ **December 7th**