

The Connection

SPRING 2008

The newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

Issue 16, Volume 1

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Visit the TDW website at
www.tdw.org



2008 State Convention "Changing Texas Today... For a Better Tomorrow!"

The 2008 "Changing Texas Today...For a Better Tomorrow"

session began with registration Friday February 29th at the Wyndham Hotel and Woodard Convention Center in Austin. In the evening attendees visited the famous Austin 6th Street to have a few laughs at Ester's Follies.

On Saturday over **132** TDW members attended the Business meeting called to order by President **Marcia Mainord**. Starting with a moment of silence for the troops, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pledge to the Texas flag. The meeting proceeded with DNC highlights by **Betty Richie**. TDP Chairman **Boyd Richie** followed with an update on the early voting from the Primary and a thank you to TDW for all its support. TDW Secretary **Linda Leff** and Treasurer **Wilma Allen** presented their reports. **Alieca Hux's** Membership report stated that we have 3000+ members and 44 chapters. 25 of those chapters were present at the convention! Election Committee chair **Jo Ann Jenkins** recommendations for state officer candidates and board members were approved by the



attendees by acclamations. The new officers and Board Members were installed by **Judge Diane Henson**.

The STAR luncheon members Awards were presented to **30** TDW members rep-

resenting **13** chapters as 2008 STARS.



After the luncheon we had a visit from some special guests. George Washington, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jef-

ferson, John & Abigail Adams (aka American Constitutional Society) they provided insight to the events of the day. This was followed by several candidates who stopped by to discuss their campaigns. After which attendees had the opportunity to learn how to become a delegate to the National Convention. The Convention concluded Saturday evening with a reception followed by the silent auction & awards dinner.



Congratulations TDW Award Winners !

Oscar Mauzy Humanitarian Award:
Texas Democratic Party Chair Boyd Richie

Dr. Mae Jackson Outstanding Democratic Women Office holder:
District Clerk McLennan County.
Karen Matkin

Lifetime Achievement Award:
JoAnn Jenkins

TDW Member of the Year :
Ken and Wilma Allen

Millie Bruner Award:
Racquel Aguilar

Certificate of Achievement:
North Dallas Texas Democratic Women

Outstanding Newsletter:
North Dallas Texas Democratic Women

Texas Outstanding Scrapbook (tie):
Nacogdoches County & Ellis County



President's Message

Greetings!

The Texas Democratic Women are leading the way for a victory in 2008. Women have always been ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work and this time is no different.

Texas Democratic Women work to unite this wonderful diversity of devoted women behind one common goal-the support of our Party and the involvement of women in the political process. We support women candidates who are committed to the principles that all women deserve policies to ensure women's safety from violence, economic opportunity, and equal access to health care and much more.

Our organization has a critical role in providing party involvement and training to name a few services. We have a wide variety of talent and expertise and this enables us to provide a political voice for all Democrats.

Through the years we have generously made many contributions and many of us have volunteered many hours of our time both to individual candidates and to the Democratic Party. This is the kind of dedication this organization has.

We have proven that we have begun to change the face of Texas politics and together we can finish the job in 2008. We have harnessed the efforts of Democratic women from a variety of back grounds and positions. We have demonstrated our ability to stand together in spite of our differences-and we have succeeded because of our differences.

Proud to be a Democrat, Prouder to be a Democratic Woman!

Gloria Caceres

President, Texas Democratic Women

"This is our year to change Texas ..and the world for a better tomorrow!"

Gender matters to some, but not all, female voters

Excerpt from Caller-Times Newspaper , Corpus Christi(Provided by Ann E. Smith)



U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign to be the Democratic presidential nominee has sparked plenty of debate. March marks Women's History Month, a time where the word "her" refers to a presidential candidate.

Clinton's roller-coaster campaign was up after winning the popular vote in Tuesday's Ohio, Texas and Rhode Island primaries. Her Democratic opponent, U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, won Vermont and continues to lead the delegate count. Whether they support Clinton or her opponent, several politically active local women shared their thoughts on having the X chromosome increasingly represented in politics.

Gloria Caceres finds herself with a front-row view of American politics this year. Not only is she the president of the Coastal Bend chapter of **Texas Democratic Women**, she also is the newly installed president of the state organization. As a member of the party's state senatorial district executive committee, she had a seat at the Feb. 21 debate in Austin, her first time to attend a presidential debate.

"I saved everything," she said. "My pictures, my (entry) bracelet ... I'll have it all in a book for my grandchildren." **Caceres** said the organization avoids endorsing a candidate until one officially has been nominated.

The diversity of members and their opinions are clear, she said, even among the younger members. Some of them are inspired by Obama.

"But I also see these young ladies, college age or early in their careers, who are excited about Hillary because she is a woman," **Caceres** said. "They say, 'If she can do it, I can do it.'"



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TDW MEMBERS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2008

- April 8** Runoff Election for Primary
- May 21** Last Day to file Statement of Candidacy for National Delegate.
- June 6-7** TDP State Convention—Austin Convention Center
- July 11-12** **2008 TDW Summer Retreat**—WACO, TX
- Aug 25-26** **National Convention**—Denver CO
- Oct 6** Last day to register to vote for the General Election.
- Nov 4** **GENERAL ELECTION!**
- Dec 15** Presidential Electors convene at the State Capitol.

Dates subject to change—check with Chapter Leaders or see the website for updates.

Thank you.....

To the Sponsors and contributors to our TDW State Convention. Vali & Bill Brannon, Betty and Boyd Richie for the Hospitality Suite, members of Central Texas Chapter for table centerpieces, and for those who donated to the silent auction.

Always believe that ultimately, if people are paying attention, then we get good government and good leadership. And when we get lazy, as a democracy and civically start taking shortcuts, then it results in bad government and politics.

Barack Obama MSNBC interview Sept 25, 2006



There cannot be true democracy unless women's voices are heard. There cannot be true democracy unless women are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their own lives. There cannot be true democracy unless all citizens are able to participate fully in the lives of their country.

Hillary Clinton July 11, 1997

Change of Contact Information

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

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

newsletter@tdw.org

2008 deadlines for submission of articles

- ⇒ *Spring : March 4*
- ⇒ *Summer: May 18*
- ⇒ *Fall : September 7th*
- ⇒ *Winter : December 7th*