

The Connection

Spring 2010

The Newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

Issue 18, Volume 1

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2010 State Convention "Be the Change You Want in Texas"

A big thanks to TDW Chapters and members who attended our Convention in Austin, February 26-27. Our Theme was "*Be the Change You Want In Texas*".

The Dr. Mae Jackson Outstanding Elected Women Official was State Representative **Jessica Farrar**. The Oscar Mauzy Humanitarian Award went to



Award recipients Becky Moeller, State Rep. Jessica Farrar, and Betty Richie

Becky Moeller, President of Texas AFL-CIO. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to **Betty Richie**, DNC Committeewoman and former TDW President. We congratulate all our awardees, especially our Star recipients. The Star Luncheon was energized by **Nettie Ruth Bratton**, who received the Exemplary Achievement Award.

Attendees had an opportunity to hear statewide candidates speak at a Candidate Forum on Saturday afternoon. Now that the primary is over, it is time for us to get behind our slate of candidates and help to get them elected this fall.

Our workshops on Political Organizing, Financial Reporting, Responding to the Tea Party and Messaging were a big success. There will be a **Finance Reporting Guide** published shortly by TDW Treasurers. Stay tuned.

Attendees who went to the Political Organizing workshop were very interested in Social Networking. You're urged to go to Facebook and sign on as a friend of our new **Texas Democratic Women** Facebook page.

Our webpage at **tdw.org** will contain more information regarding the upcoming **Texas Democratic Convention** and **Woman's Caucus**, as well as the **Lady Bird Johnson** breakfast in Corpus Christi, June 25-26.

You are invited to the July 30-31 **TDW Summer Retreat** in San Antonio at El Tropicano, where we'll have a GOTV workshop, outstanding speakers and enjoy a River Walk cruise.

Bill Brannon and Barbara Gardner present a workshop on "How to Respond to the Tea Party"



To pay dues and become a Sustaining TDW Member, go to ACT Blue on the **tdw.org** webpage. TDW Board is working for you and you are helping elect Democratic Women in Texas.

Democrats have nominated an outstanding ticket and have an exciting election year ahead. **Be the change you want in Texas!**

Joanna Reagan, TDW President

A Special Thank You...

To Bill & Vali Brannon and to the many sponsors for the hospitality room.

Visit the TDW website at
www.tdw.org



President's Message

Democrats Pass Health Care Reform—American Families Are the Winners

With a history-making vote of 219 to 210, the Democratic Congress led by **Speaker Nancy Pelosi**, passed Health Care Reform on Sunday night, March 21, 2010. In thanking the thousands of democrats who made calls, wrote letters and block walked, **President Obama** said, “For the first time in our nation’s history, Congress has passed a comprehensive health care reform....Because of you, every American will finally be guaranteed high quality, affordable health care coverage.”

“This struggle became a test of whether the American people could still rally together when the cause was right—and actually create the change we believe in.....Tonight, thanks to your mighty efforts, the answer is indisputable: **Yes, we can.**”

Our 2010 TDW theme is “*Be the Change You Want In Texas.*” The 2010 Election Year will be challenging, but we can bring about that change. We have a state rich in resources and human potential, but we have been failed by two decades of Republican control.

This is **our** moment to make history and bring change to Texas. I know **we can** (si, se puede) elect the outstanding Democratic ticket of Bill White, Linda Chavez-Thompson, Barbara Ann Radnofsky, Hector Uribe, Jeff Weems, Hank Gilbert and Jim Sharp, Bill Moody, Blake Bailey, and Keith Hampton to lead Texas into the 21st century.

With our outstanding Texas democratic ticket and strong women candidates, we, too, will “**make the change we want in Texas**” and be able to declare our own victory on November 2, Election Day!

Joanna Reagan.

May 12, 2009

Letter from the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy to President Barack Obama



“When I thought of all the years, all the battles, and all the memories of my long public life, I felt confident in these closing days that while I will not be there when it happens, you will be the President who at long last signs into law the health care reform that is the great unfinished business of our society. For me, this cause stretched across decades; it has been disappointed, but never finally defeated. It was the cause of my life....

There will be struggles—there always have been. I saw your conviction that the time is now and witnessed your unwavering commitment and understanding that health care is a decisive issue for our future prosperity...what we face is above all a moral issue; that at stake are not just the details of policy, but fundamental principles of social justice and the character of our country.”



BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER OF TDW!

With a donation of \$120, you can help support the work of our organization, to elect Democratic Women to office. Please consider becoming a sustaining member. Go to tdw.org and make a monthly donation of \$10 through Act Blue.

Women Lead the Way to Pass Historic Health Care Reform

“We will be joining those who established Social Security, Medicare and now, tonight, health care for all Americans,” said **Speaker Nancy Pelosi**, Sunday night, March 21, 2010 on passing Health Care Reform in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Friday, March 26th was Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s 70th birthday. TDW wishes the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and most powerful speaker in history a most happy birthday and many more! **Happy Birthday Speaker Pelosi!**

On Sunday evening, March 21, during the historic debate on Health Care Reform, **Congresswoman, Louise Slaughter** of New York, Chair of the House of Representatives Rules Committee, read a message President Franklin Roosevelt sent Congress in 1939 urging lawmakers to address the needs of those without health care, and said Democrat Harry Truman and Republican Richard Nixon also had sought to broaden insurance coverage.

TDW congratulates these two outstanding women legislators leading the way to victory on Health Care Reform for all Americans!

Letters to the Editor Talking Points

For those who are writing letters to the editors on Health Care Reform here are some talking points:

- Rick Perry and Greg Abbott, Texas Republicans want to take Health Care Benefits away from Texans. Republicans would make Texans pay for their partisan agenda. Perry and Abbott are once again ignoring the best interests of Texans to join an ideological chorus that is willing to harm Texas families to serve an extreme partisan agenda and the big insurance companies.

DNC News



At a recent event in Dallas, **Vice President Joe Biden** and **Senator Dick Durbin** were very enthusiastic about Texas Democrats and this election.

Recently, I was privileged to be part of a meeting in San Antonio with **Governor Tim Kaine**, Chair of the DNC. He believes that the progress we have made in Texas means great possibilities for this election cycle.

News of Texas and November is not just about seceding from the U.S. and our right wing Board of Education, it is also about the great candidates we have up and down our ballot and how important Texas Democrats are to the Nation.

So...let’s all join hands and help all of our great candidates win in November.

Oh, and don’t forget to fill out your Census!

Betty Richie, DNC Committeewoman



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Congratulations:

To all our Stars and Outstanding Achievement Award winners!

TDW MEMBERS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2010

- June 24** Texas Democratic Convention
 - in Corpus Christi
26 Fri., June 25-Texas Democratic Women's Caucus
 Sat., June 26-Lady Bird Johnson Breakfast
- July 30** TDW Summer Retreat, El
 - Tropicano Hotel, San Antonio
31 Fri., July 30-River Walk Cruise
 Sat., July 31-GOTV Workshop, Speakers & Luncheon

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

Thank you.....

Big thank you to the TDW members representing 23 chapters statewide for their participation in our annual convention and to all those who helped make our Silent Auction so successful; raising \$3,000!



"We are a country that shapes our own destiny. We can take our next steps with new confidence, because we know it's still possible to do big things in America. Because we know it's still possible to rise above the skepticism, to rise above the cynicism, to rise above the fear."

President Barack Obama (March 23, 2010)
 On signing Historic Health Care Legislation

Change of Contact Information

Send any changes of your contact information to

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

newsletter@tdw.org

2010 deadlines for submission of articles

⇒ *Summer : May 10th*

⇒ *Fall : Sept. 8th*

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