



## FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONVENTION WAS THE BEST YET!

### President's Letter

Dear TDW Members,

It is such an honor to have been elected President of Texas Democratic Women. I have been working since the late 1960's for equal rights for all, and I was brought up in a family of strong democratic ideals.

I am so excited to be working with such a diversified Board of active democratic women who care. Our motto this year is, "Building a Bridge to a Brighter Future," and the ladies on the Board are a prime example of those who can lead to this brighter future. We cannot do this alone! We need YOU...ALL OF YOU! Our counties need you working the polls and encouraging voters to get out the vote! Our candidates need you to knock on doors, place yard signs, and pass out handouts. Our current elected officials need YOU to voice our concerns and praise for the job they are doing. And, our children, our future need your leadership example of how to live a caring, concerned, compassionate and respectful life.

I am looking forward to this year and working with our chapters and encouraging democratic women in all counties to organize and support their liberal candidates. We can start turning Texas blue this year, but we need each of you. Our future depends on you!

Thank you all, again, for supporting me and your desire to live in a state that is equal and respectful to all!

Also, I would like to send out a special "thank you" to my local Tarrant County club and several special, strong democratic women who worked so closely with me. Also, a special THANK YOU to the past presidents who guided me in planning our 2018 convention. Learning from past history is what leads us to our bridge for a successful future. Thank you so much for your past and current leadership.

Your President,  
*Cindy James*



Cindy James, TDW President



### TDW Executive Board

- President:** Cindy James - Tarrant
- President-Elect:** Maria Regalado - Rio Grande Valley
- Vice President:** Susan Barrick - Lubbock
- Secretary:** Mary Ho - Bell
- Treasurer:** Kenna Giffiin - Rio Grande Valley
- Board Member:** Barbara Gardner - Harris Metro
- Board Member:** Glenda Turner - Coastal Bend
- Board Member:** Sharon Davis - Anderson
- Imm. Past President:** Carol Jablonski - North Dallas
- Parliamentarian:** Carol Cordell - Tarrant

### TDW Board of Advisors

- Jeanie Stanley, Ph.D
- Mae J. Jackson, Ph.D\*
- Jo Ann Jenkins
- Karen Matkin
- Cristy Keul
- Molly Beth Malcolm, Ed.D
- Nettie Ruth Bratton
- Sharon Teal
- Roberta McMurtry Hicks\*
- Betty Richie
- Kellie Bailey
- Alieca Hux
- Marcia Mainord
- Gloria Caceres
- Susie Blackmon
- Joanna Reagan
- Rosie Mimms
- Donna Beth McCormick
- Tammie Hartgroves
- Laura Allen
- Susan Shelton



## 2018 TDW CONVENTION – FABULOUS!

**Sarah Weddington**, who argued *Roe v. Wade* in 1972, was truly inspiring in her keynote speech Saturday night. Ms. Weddington was only 26 years old when she won the landmark decision that changed women's lives forever. Since that time, she has continued to be a trailblazer and a role model for all of us. TDW was truly honored to have Ms. Weddington as our special guest speaker.

At the Awards Luncheon, **Kim Olson**, Candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, had everyone on their feet applauding numerous times. This woman can hold her own anywhere, anytime! She is a real "spit-fire." A former Air Force jet pilot overseas and now retired Colonel, Ms. Olson runs her own farm/ranch. She can speak volumes on the subjects related to the position of Agriculture Commissioner. And, Ms. Olson is probably one of the most dynamite speakers since Ann Richards. She is a sure winner!

Possibly the most inspiring about the convention itself was the sold-out attendance and the electric energy in the air. Texas Democratic Women are excited - fired up and ready to go! By all accounts at this convention, changes are already in the making. Look out, Republicans - the Texas Democratic Women are comin' to kick you out!

Finally, TDW wishes to thank all of its generous sponsors who made this event possible. Without our supporters, TDW could not host such a wonderful event, as this was.

### New TDW Board Members

There were lively campaign speeches given in the contested races at the convention. The result of the voting was a new Executive Board, pictured above with the new members' names and titles.

TDW appreciates the time and effort donated by these women to help lead our organization to greater heights!



### LOCAL CHAPTER WEBSITES

Workshops were presented at the Convention, both on how to create your chapter's own website and how to access the new database. The creating of new local chapter websites will be an ongoing process during 2018. The State TDW Board hopes that this online access will bring our chapters closer and unite us under that secure "umbrella," as stated in the Mission of TDW.



### NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS

Below are articles from local chapters telling about what's happening in their "neck of the woods."

#### Bell County TDW



Gala Dinner - Convention



Helping the Women's Shelter



Business Meeting - Convention

We had a blast at the TDW Convention in February. We are inspired by the speakers and the women who have stepped up to run for the 2018 elections whether it be local races, state or federal positions. Many of the BCTDW members will be working the polls during Early voting and March 6th, as well as collecting toiletries and clothing for our local women's shelter



In their February meeting, NDTDW hosted "Moms Demand Action." Much like Mothers Against Drunk Driving was created to reduce drunk driving, [Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America](#) was created to demand action from legislators, state and federal; companies; and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms.

*Moms Demand Action* was founded by stay-at-home mom [Shannon Watts](#) on December 15, 2012, in response to the devastating shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The organization quickly flourished into a leading force for gun violence prevention, with chapters in all 50 states and a powerful grassroots network of moms that has successfully effected change at the local, state and national level. In December 2013, Moms Demand Action partnered with Mayors Against Illegal Guns to unite a nationwide movement of millions of Americans working together to change the game and end the epidemic of gun violence that affects every community.



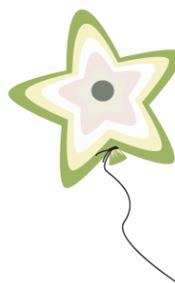
## Hill Country TDW

The Hill Country Chapter of TDW chose a round table format for their February 6 luncheon meeting to share stories and solutions for defusing political conflicts among family and friends. We learned that some of us are even married to Republicans! Several candidates, including Congressional candidates Elliott McFadden and Mary Wilson, participated in the lively discussions.

Members were asked when they became Democrats, and the interesting report was that most of our members have been lifelong Democrats. When asked about their activism, some mentioned President Trump, but most traced their political activism back to earlier events.

Sharing your history as a Democrat, and the way you encourage your friends and family to vote for Democrats also reveals a lot about yourself as a member of Texas Democratic Women.

Photo: Congressional candidates Mary Wilson (center, in red) and Elliott McFadden (center back, in suit) joined in the round table discussions.

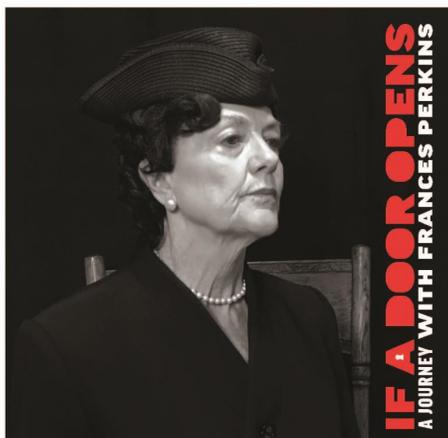


## South Plains TDW

TDW South Plains and Charlotte Keefe, playwright and actor, will bring to life one of the most important women of the 20th Century: Frances Perkins. Never heard of her? She was the first woman cabinet member and Secretary of Labor under FDR for 12 years. She was instrumental in enacting the first minimum wage law, the forty-hour work week, the Social Security Act, unemployment insurance, child labor laws and the National Labor Relations Act. The Department of Labor building in Washington DC is named for her.

In two acts, Keefe takes us through her life--via flashbacks to her childhood, education, early work at Hull House in Chicago, social justice work in New York and ultimately to Washington DC with FDR. Her declaration on that move: "I came to Washington to work for God, FDR, and the millions of forgotten, plain, common workingmen."

The play runs March 23-25, 2018 at the Lubbock Community Theatre, [4232 Boston Ave., Lubbock, Texas](#). Tickets are available online at ActBlue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ifadooropens>



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