



Quarterly Newsletter



From the Office of the President

I want to express my gratitude to all of the TDW members, sponsors and speakers who made Blue Ribbon Lobby Day a great event. We had the participation of 323 Democratic and progressive women in Austin on April 2, 2019.

TDW is very proud of our Democratic legislators and we continue to stand with them and support them.

In a big win for concerned citizens across Texas, HB 2840 will go into effect on September 1, 2019. Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) is the primary author of the measure, which gives the public increased access to the decision making process by providing for public comment before or during consideration of each item on the agenda at meetings of County Commissioner Courts, municipal governing bodies, school district boards of trustees, county boards of education, and more.

SB 12 was also passed and signed into law. Our state's hard-working teachers deserve to know their benefits will be there when they retire. This bill makes the teachers retirement system solvent and protects teachers from increases in health care premiums. Blue Ribbon Lobby Day is a long standing tradition for TDW; it is a tradition that gives us access to our legislators to voice our concerns.

Democratically,

Maria Regalado

Chapters - Please note

If your Chapter has not submitted its annual charter renewal, the cost went up \$10 on March 1, so please send your chapter's renewal of \$50 to: TDW treasurer Kenna Giffin at PO Box 397, Mission, TX 78573.

And, if you haven't already, please email your list of 2019-2020 officers to [VP Cassandra](#)

Upcoming Events

Almost Here . . .

- **Summer Retreat 2019**, July 27 in Lubbock.
- **Executive Board Meeting**, July 27, Lubbock

TDW Summer Retreat - Registration Deadline July 18

TDW's Summer Retreat is Friday - Saturday, July 26-27 at the [Overton Hotel](#), 2322 Mac Davis Lane, in Lubbock, hosted by Texas Democratic Women of the South Plains. Registration is \$65 and includes all materials, breakfast, coffee and lunch on Saturday. [Sign up here on ActBlue](#). **Or** mail your check made out to TDW South Plains to Barbara Bonato, Treasurer, 5229 9th Street, Lubbock, TX 79416.

The Overton Hotel has reserved a block of rooms for Retreat participants, available both days. Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at (806) 776-7000 and requesting a room under the "TDW Summer Retreat" room block or online using this direct link:

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=2502916&hotelID=74387>. Directly across the street from the Overton is the [Hyatt Place](#). Rooms are not blocked there, but their reservation link is included for everyone's information.

Activities on Friday, July 26

Meeting check in, hotel lobby starting at 3:30 p.m.

Happy Hour and live music on the hotel's beautiful, shady patio starting at 4 p.m.

On Saturday morning, July 27

Meeting check in upstairs (Horizon Ballroom) starting at 7:45 a.m.

Buffet Breakfast starting at 8:00 a.m.

The program will feature:

- TDP Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa
- Organizational Strength Building – Jacob Jones Martinez
- Dr. Amy Koerber, Texas Tech University, author of "From Hysteria to Hormones"
- Noon Luncheon – speaker(s) TBA

State Board meeting after lunch.

And more . . .

Make a day of it and enjoy Lubbock's [Cultural District](#) with us on Saturday afternoon and evening

- Depot District wineries
- Museums – Museum of Texas Tech, Silent Wings Museum, Buddy Holly Center, National Ranching Heritage Center, American Windmill Museum, Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark, Caviel Museum of African American History
- Texas Tech Public Art Collection

8:20 p.m. Landmark After Dark Night Hike at the Lubbock Lake National Historic Site

If you plan to attend, please register soon - hotel rooms are limited and filling up fast!
Questions? Please email [Brenda Cruz](#), TDW South Plains President.



NEWS FROM LOCAL CHAPTERS

Please help us make this a better newsletter that represents the wonderful diversity of our statewide organization!

Photos and stories about your Chapter's events for next month's newsletter can be sent at any time to [VP **Kassandra Elejarza**](#).

Highland Lakes

Hightower Speaks to Capacity Crowd at HLDW Luncheon

The Highland Lakes Democratic Women met on Thursday, May 23, at Meadowlakes Restaurant. Chapter President Nancy Hill welcomed over 80 members and guests, including three new members. Don Adams, a former Texas state senator and current municipal judge, introduced the meeting's keynote speaker, former Agriculture Commissioner, national radio commentator, writer, public speaker, New York Times best-selling author, and his personal friend, Jim Hightower.

Hightower's speech was a call to action to Democrats, and particularly those in rural areas, in the run-up to the 2020 elections. He pointed out that Democrats are just 9 seats away from controlling the Texas House. He talked about the crisis facing family farms caused by a 'perfect storm' of factors – big

agribusiness that controls supply and pricing; Trump administration tariffs; and the effects of climate change. He called for universal health care, an issue that disproportionately affects people living in rural areas, and that has growing bipartisan support, with 88% of Democrats and 50% of Republicans nationwide favoring it. He talked about the need for improving infrastructure – the roads and bridges that are the lifelines for farmers, ranchers and residents in rural Texas – and for guaranteed education for all, from pre-K through college or trade school. He challenged his audience to work for investments in the American people; as he said in closing, “Everyone does better when everyone does better.”

HLDW meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:15am at Meadowlakes Restaurant. June’s speaker will be Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar. Reservations are required, and a \$15 charge to cover the cost of lunch is payable at check-in. Please contact Pat Myers at plmyers47@gmail.com or call 512 755-3133 for reservations.



Jim Hightower speaks to a packed house.



Left to right: Nancy Hill, HLDW President; former state senator and current Municipal Judge Don Adams; Jim Hightower; Dana Rushing, HLDW Vice President

Hill Country Chapter Installs New Officers



Left to right are Bob Shipman, treasurer; Shannon Palmquist, secretary; Justice Chapa; Bunny Bond, vice-president and Sylvia Ostos, president.

Hill Country Chapter Texas Democratic Women installed a new slate of officers for 2019-2020 at its monthly meeting on May 7. Performing the installation ceremony was Justice Luz Chapa of the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals.

Highland Lakes Democratic Women - Horseshoe Bay Book Club



From left to right: Beth Dahlberg, Dana Rushing, Faith Trapp, Susan Barry, Kim Compton, Linda Burling, Arlis Schmidt. Not pictured, Teri Flanagan and Michelle Walker.

The Horseshoe Bay Book Club met at Linda Burling's home on May 6th to review the book "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann. The group is made up of members of Highland Lakes Democratic Women. There was a lively discussion, as always, with everyone agreeing it was a remarkable story.

Blue Ribbon Lobby Day 2019

Blue Ribbon Lobby Day in Austin, Texas on April



2, 2019 was a success. Texas Democratic Women and supporters from all over Texas came together on the steps of the Capitol to highlight women's issues and policies that need attention from our legislators. Some of our representatives were able to come out and show their support and speak directly to us. The bills we highlighted all failed to make it through the process. Unfortunately the Governor signed SB22 prohibiting certain transactions between a governmental entity and an abortion provider or affiliate of the provider, so it will go into effect on September 1, 2019.



TDW 2019-2020 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Maria Regalado

President-Elect: Sue Barrick

VP: Kassandra Elejarza

Secretary: Mary Elizabeth Terry

Treasurer: Kenna Giffiin

At-Large Board Members:

Janet Dudding

Otilia Buantello Enriquez

Laura Nicol

Immediate Past President:

Cindy James

Photo by Shirley Ledford

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