



Quarterly Newsletter

From President Sue Barrick . . .



When we left Austin on February 9th none of us expected to be where we are now, with Texas businesses in the process of re-opening while a poorly understood and deadly new disease is still on the rampage. Without a vaccine or sure-fire medical treatment for COVID-19, we will soon see how well that works out. The White House continues to withhold CDC guidelines for resuming our accustomed activities, so the burden of deciding when and how to venture out is on us individually. For some help sorting out all of the factors to consider, I recommend reading "A Guide to Staying Safe as States Reopen" by Joe Pinsker in *The Atlantic*.

This public health crisis has shown the true worth of our people, especially those who are usually unsung heroes. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude and action on public policy to mend the safety nets that make for a healthy and resilient society. I am proud of the TDW Chapters that are figuring out online methods of meeting and organizing for the good of their local communities and our shared political future. If your chapter could use some pointers, there are some in this newsletter. The Presidential election is hanging in the balance now in Texas. Let's be ready when the campaign really takes off.

Chapter Reminders

Chapter Presidents, please email your current Chapter Bylaws to TDW Bylaws Chair, [Susan Shelton](#).

And, if you haven't already, please email your list of 2020-21 officers to [VP Cassandra Elejarza](#).

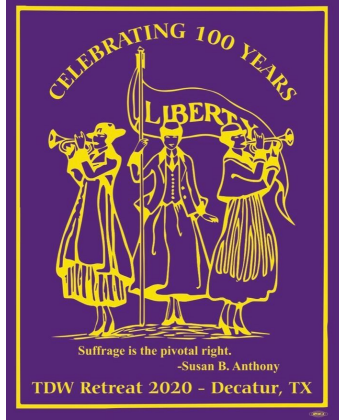
[Awesome T-Shirts Available](#)

Mark Your Calendar

- **Special State Board Meeting: Friday May 15 at 5:15 p.m.** [RSVP](#) to join in Zoom.
- **TDP VIRTUAL Women's Caucus: Wednesday June 3 at 5:00 p.m.** [Register here.](#)
- **TDP VIRTUAL State Convention: Monday June 1 - Saturday June 6** [Register here.](#)
- **2nd Quarterly State Board Meeting: Sunday June 7 at 2:30 p.m.** [RSVP](#) to join in Zoom.

Summer Retreat - CANCELLED

Sadly, we cannot meet in beautiful Decatur for



our Summer Retreat. The host Chapter, Rural North Texas TDW, is offering awesome tee shirts commemorating this year's 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. For more information, please visit their website [here](#).

STATE PARTY AND CONVENTION NEWS

Like so many institutions, the Texas Democratic Party has been called on to adapt in new ways. The SDEC adopted new rules at its most recent meeting to allow the party to conduct the state convention at a distance by electronic means. This means that delegates will be casting email ballots in all elections and other business. It also means that many, many more Democrats will be able to participate as visitors in the range of training, panels and caucus presentations than "just" the 11,000 plus who are official delegates. The full schedule will soon become available. To register, go to "[Get My Virtual Tickets](#)".

Take me to ActBlue now to pay my 2020 TDW Dues!

Staying Connected

As we continue to prepare for this November we cannot lose any traction towards our goal to elect more Democratic women across the state. We may be social distancing physically but we can still connect virtually. Here at TDW we wanted to provide some helpful tools that can help your chapter stay connected. [Google Meet](#) (formerly Google Hangouts) and [Zoom](#) are video conferencing tools that the state board has tried. There are other providers to choose from as well. Start with a free trial to see if their services are a fit for your chapter. Here are some Do's & Don'ts for after you have set up your preference of provider and initiate your conference. ~ *Kassandra Elejarza, Vice President*

Do

- MUTE yourself - Background noise can be a distraction.
- WEAR appropriate clothing - Avoid mishaps like no pants on national TV.
- INTRODUCE yourself before you speak - There may be more people in the meeting than you can see from the first screen.



Don't

- DELAY your start time - Meetings do not start unless the host logs on so be respectful of your viewers time.
- MULTI-TASK - Viewers can tell when you are not focused or checking an email.
- INTERRUPT other speakers - There is a chat box to ask questions or ask for the floor.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has developed a new program of fourteen (14) workshops to be presented to local chapters on request. The purpose is to help chapters grow, become stronger, and prepare for the upcoming November election. Expert trainers present the workshops showing excellent Power Point slides with handouts for the participants. Although the workshops originally were designed to be presented in person, the trainers have adapted to the stay-at-home orders and present the workshops via Zoom. Please check out the workshops on TDW's website - <https://tdw.org/training-workshops/>. If you wish to have a workshop presented to your chapter, simply contact the TDW Membership Chair.

The corona virus crisis placed obstacles in our path regarding efforts to recruit new chapters. That process necessarily requires personal visits to women who may be interested in starting new chapters. Committee members nevertheless have been making phone calls and sending emails to solicit interest. If you know any women activists who would be willing to spearhead the effort to start a new TDW chapter in a county without one, contact the [TDW Membership Chair](#). ~ Barbara Gardner, Membership Chair



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 the next issue can be sent at any time to [VP Cassandra Elejarza](#).

Hill Country Texas Democratic Women highlighted women in leadership positions in their article "[Are Women Leaders Doing a Better Job?](#)"

As Democratic Women, we will be focusing on electing more women to office, not just to close the gender gap, but to improve governance in our State and nation. Several news outlets, including USA Today and Forbes magazine have noticed that nations led by women are having better outcomes during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some nations to watch are Germany, New Zealand, Slovakia, and Iceland. For example, both Germany and Slovakia have much lower death rates than other European countries, and Iceland and Germany have much higher rates of testing.

In the April 10, 2020 edition of Forbes magazine, Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic made the following observation: "The performance of countries with female heads of state ...has so far been quite positive." He goes on to state that "data support the idea that women are better equipped for handling a health crisis, including a pandemic. Even if the issue at stake is just focused on a specific range of decision-making tendencies or cognitive biases, such as reckless risk-taking, overconfidence, and hubris (all of which are more common in men than women) it is intuitive to see the logic for reducing risk by increasing the number of women in charge." ~Stephanie Ertel, Legislative Chair

Highland Lakes Democratic Women spotlighted member

Evelyn Acosta-Cone. Evelyn is an artist currently teaching and showing her works at Highland Art Guild and Gallery. She has been painting since she was a child. Her parents, being practical people, thought painting was nice but having a "real job" was better. They encouraged her art, but insisted she study something practical. Her career began as a teacher, then Human Resource management and, lastly, working for Mattel toys. Evelyn's family is from Puerto Rico: she was born in Humacau. She has been fortunate to study art all over the country, but seriously started painting again when she retired to Washington state. Evelyn says she "owes whatever talent I have to many wonderful teachers, especially Ruby Agnew-Martin, who taught in La Conner, Washington". Evelyn and her husband, Dan, have lived in Marble Falls for three years. One of the reasons they feel lucky to live here is the lake and beautiful Hill Country. They inspire so many kinds of art. Art is an important part of Evelyn's life, but she is also very involved in the community. She is the membership chair for the Highland Lake Democratic Women, which has led to her involvement with St. Frederick's Church. Evelyn is very active, along with Dan, in the VFW of Marble Falls where she is involved in the patriotic art class scholarship program for young people. At the gallery, Evelyn teaches a weekly watercolor class and is the special events chair.



TDW 2020-2021 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President: Sue Barrick
President-Elect: Mary Terry
VP: Cassandra Elejarza
Secretary: Vicki Moore
Treasurer: Joyce Franklin

At-Large Board Members:
Heidi Gordon

Take me to ActBlue now to pay my 2020 TDW Dues!

Judy Summers
Janice Thacker

Immediate Past President:
Mari Regalado

Parliamentarian, Marcia Mainord

Send your articles and photos to VicePresident@TDW.org - we want to promote you!

[Visit TDW.ORG](http://TDW.ORG)



STAY CONNECTED

