



January 2021 Newsletter



President's Message

We always feared that Donald Trump's presidency would end badly. The only question was how badly. Now we know.

Viewed superficially, the spectacle of Trump's costumed and flag-bedecked followers as they stormed the U.S. Capitol was worthy of the professional wrestling world. But there was nothing entertaining or fake about the real carnage and wreckage they left behind, all at the urging of the most disgusting, corrupt and morally bankrupt president this nation has ever had the misfortune to elect.

The Democrats of the Texas U.S. House delegation held it together like heroes, through the melee and into the early hours of the day after, to deal with the spurious objections to certifying Joe Biden's Electoral College win. Meanwhile the Republican side of the Texas delegation carried on disgracefully.

Even Texas AG Ken Paxton found his way to Washington to help Trump whip up the mob! If he was dreaming of a presidential pardon either there are some federal crimes on his conscience or he is as mixed up about the law as we thought all along. Either way, Texas will be better off after he is voted out of office for once and all, along with the sitting Governor and Lt. Governor.

It's time to shake off last year's disappointments, be thankful for our victories, and all of the hard work done by the Democratic Women of Georgia, and start organizing. Take the first step by [signing up](#) to attend TDW's Annual Meeting and Convention online.

Sue Barrick

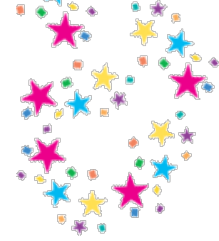
TDW 2020 - 2021 Officers

President: Sue Barrick
President-Elect:
Mary Elizabeth Terry
VP: Kassandra Elejarza
Secretary: Vicki Moore
Treasurer: Joyce Franklin
At-Large Board Members:
Heidi Gordon
Judy Summers
Janice Thacker
Immediate Past President:
Maria Regalado

Advisory Board of Past TDW Presidents

Jeanie Stanley, Ph.D.
Jo Ann Jenkins
Karen Matkin
Cristy Keul
Molly Beth Malcolm, Ed.D.
Nettie Ruth Bratton
Sharon Teal
Betty Richie
Kellie Bailey
Alieca Hux
Marcia Mainord
Susie Blackmon
Joanna Reagan
Rosie Mimms
Gloria Caceres
Donna Beth McCormick
Tammie Hartgroves
Laura Allen
Susan Shelton
Carol Jablonski
Cindy B. James
Maria Regalado, Chair

Send photos of your Stars and no more than 200 well chosen words that describe their accomplishments that have enhanced your Chapter during 2020 with [this form](#) to texasdemwomen@gmail.com and submit the \$50 fee for each by mail to Treasurer Joyce Franklin, 4609 Pangolin Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76244 or through [ActBlue](#).



About Whova - TDW's Online Conference Platform

Whova is a top-rated online conference platform with a name that is ambiguous to pronounce at first glance. Start by saying "Who," and you will get it right. It's an app with almost every option any group taking an in-person event online could wish for.

TDW has subscribed to Whova options that allow those who register for the Convention to:

- view the agenda when it goes live, with updates about Zoom links, speakers and workshops
- see who else is attending
- exchange messages with other registered attendees
- make nominations and cast their votes for state officers in real time

Whova will also automatically update the agenda on our 2021 Convention page at tdw.org.

After you receive confirmation of your [registration](#), you can use the web app link in the confirmation message to sign up for your Whova account on your computer. Or you can download the free Whova app to your smartphone and sign up using your phone. Either way, be sure to use the email you used to register for the meeting when signing up for your account. Then any time you sign in to Whova, you will automatically be directed to the Convention conference space.



Chapter News

Please send Chapter news items to texasdemwomen@gmail.com
Subject line: Newsletter Article plus your Chapter's name

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women have started off 2021 strong! First we made a major push to help Democrats take control of the Senate by hand writing strategic messages to registered Democratic voters in Georgia to get out the vote! Some of the cards were hand colored and others carried pithy messages on our specially created and printed postcards. Over 8,100 were sent!

Next we kicked off our Membership Drive with the added incentive of receiving our bumpersticker celebrating the ouster of Trump and welcoming soon to be President Joe Biden and soon to be Vice President Kamala Harris. We got over 35 new and renewing members almost immediately, and more continue to come in via email and through PayPal. They are sent the bumpersticker and a membership card as soon as their dues are received.

-Lenna Webb



Welcome
Biden/Harris
2021

North Dallas Texas Democratic Women

Highland Lakes Democratic Women will kick off 2021 with their monthly meeting on January 28, 2021 at 11:30am. The group continues to meet virtually in compliance with CDC and State of Texas guidelines. According to the Georgia Tech COVID-19 [Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool](#) accessed on January 7, 2021, at a gathering of 50 people there is a 36% risk in Burnet County and a 61% risk in Llano County that one or more individuals present will be positive for COVID-19.



It is timely, then, that January's guest speaker is Jack Franklin, MD. (pictured) Dr. Franklin is a board-certified Family Practice Physician and has cared for the citizens of Llano and the surrounding area for over 20 years. In addition to his private practice Dr. Franklin serves as the Medical Director of the Llano County Health Authority. He has been responsible for the county's COVID-19 testing program under the guidance established by the Federal CARES Act. Dr. Taylor will speak about his experience treating COVID patients, the status of the vaccine rollout, and about his personal COVID journey.

Highland Lakes Democratic Women meets via virtual meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:30am. Contact Linda Burling at ljburling@gmail.com for meeting details and link.

- Susan O'Brien

See Who's Running - State Officer Candidates

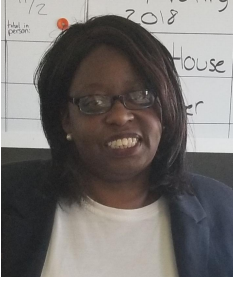
The following TDW members declared their intent to run for state officer positions in time for inclusion in this newsletter. Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name in those races that are contested. Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the virtual Convention pending determination of the nominee's membership status and with the nominee's consent.



For President-Elect

Kassandra Elejarza of Alamo is a 4-year, founding member of the Rio Grande Valley TDW Chapter. She is currently serving her second term as TDW's Vice President. She has been the Precinct Chair for Hidalgo County's Pct 253 since 2018. In 2018 Kassandra also worked as the South Texas Political Director for the Texas Democratic Party. She is currently the Political Director for Cambio Texas and is the managing partner in Arena Analytics, LLC.

For Vice President



Coretta Graham of Corpus Christi has been a member of Coastal Bend TDW for 10+ years. She is a self-employed attorney who manages her own law firm. She served a term as an At-Large member of the 2013-14 state TDW Board. She has been an active member of her Chapter and received a Star Award at last year's TDW State Convention. Coretta has served her County Party as an election judge and Precinct chair since 2010 and now holds the office of County Democratic Party Chair.



For Vice President

Heidi Gordon of League City is a 4-year founding board member of Galveston County TDW. She currently serves as an At-Large member of the TDW State Board. She completed 2 terms as President of her Chapter and served as Chapter Treasurer last year. Heidi describes herself as a full time Democratic Party and TDW volunteer. She is presently Galveston County Precinct 455 Chair and was a delegate to the 2018 and 2020 State Party Conventions. Since 2017 she has completed TDP's Train the Trainer, Annie's List, Advanced VAN, and TDP Activist training.



For Secretary

Vicki Moore of Haltom City is running for re-election as TDW's State Board Secretary. She has belonged to the Tarrant Co. Democratic Woman's Club for the last 5 years, having served as that Chapter's Secretary for one term and two terms as their President. Vicki retired in 2012 after 33 years as a Contracting Officer for the Federal Government. She is a Tarrant County Precinct Chair and newly-elected State Democratic Party Committeewoman for Senate District 9.



For Treasurer

Joyce Franklin of Fort Worth is running for re-election as TDW's State Board Treasurer. She has been a member of the Tarrant County Democratic Woman's Club for the past 5 years. She completed two terms as that Chapter's Treasurer, and also served as one of Tarrant County's Precinct Chairs for 3 years. Joyce is retired after a career with Fidelity Investments.



For Board Member at Large

Dierdre Barrett of Houston is a 2-year member of TDW Harris County Metro Area and 2-year At-Large member of their board; she served on the the chapter's "Women Making History" fundraiser committee. Active in Georgia Democratic Party affairs before coming to Texas, she was from 2007-18 on the Georgia Democratic Party Executive Board, and a Fulton County Elected Post Seat Holder from 2010-16. She currently works as Director of Diversity, Inclusion & Marketing for BLOCK Companies and has 20 years of experience in Brand Marketing across a wide variety of industries.

For Board Member at Large

Otilia "OT" Buantello Enriquez of Burleson is a 4-year member of TDW, with dual membership in Hood County TDW and the Tarrant County Democratic Woman's Club. She was elected as an At-Large TDW State Board member in 2019. OT was a Johnson Co. Pct Chair from 2018-20. She currently co-chairs the North Central TX Progressive Democrats of America and the Progressive Hispanic Democrats of North TX. She chairs the SD 22 Tejano Democrats, and volunteers for youth through her church, organized sports and NDTC Trainer of Trainers

program and for Democratic candidates and campaigns.



For Board Member at Large

Cheryl "Denise" Maben of Bursleson is a founding member and past President of TDW of Johnson County since 2011. She maintains dual membership in TDW of Rural North Texas. She is a retired aerospace worker and President of the Machinist 776 Retirees Organization since 2014. Throughout her work life and into retirement she has been an activist and leader in organized labor, particularly focused on Union Community Services Committee work. She served many years as an Election Judge or Alternate Judge in Tarrant and Johnson Counties.



For Board Member at Large

Andrea Finch Marwah of Austin is a new At-Large Member of TDW. Since returning to Texas she has taken the vacant Democratic Precinct Chair post in her neighborhood. She holds degrees in Marine Affairs and Water Resources Management and worked as a Marine Policy Fellow at the Coastal States Organization, Policy Analyst at the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, Environmental Policy Analyst at the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Texas Coastal Management Program Environmental Specialist, and City of Cedar Park Sustainability Program Manager. Most recently Andrea has overseen social media marketing campaigns and coordinated logistics with trainers and trainees at an Austin wellness Institute.



For Board Member at Large

Amanda Elise Salas of McAllen is a 1-year member of Rio Grande Valley TDW. She is a self-employed progressive political and communications strategist. She serves as Hidalgo County Democratic Party Precinct 34 chair, and worked as a regional organizing Director for the Texas Democratic Party/ Biden for President campaign. Amanda has worked as the Communications Director for a Louisiana Congressional Campaign, Regional Organizing Director for Mike Bloomberg for President, State Organizer for Justice Democrats and a Field Organizer for Battleground Texas over the past three years.



For Board Member at Large

Janice Thacker of Rusk is running for re-election as a TDW State Board Member At-Large. She is a 5-year member of Cherokee County TDW and has served as Chapter President for 4 of those years. She is employed by the Rusk Independent School District as a School Bus Monitor. She has been the Democratic Party Deputy Field Director for SD 3 for one year and is the newly elected Cherokee County Democratic Party Chair.



