

The Connection

the newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

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TDW Contributes Money, Time, Talent to Candidates

Inside The Connection

TDW GOTV Plan	page 1
President's Message	page 2
Emily's List Program	page 2
New Chapters & Members	page 2
TDW Sponsors	page 3
TDW Leads State Party	page 4

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Texas Democratic Women, for the first time in its 17 year history, is making political contributions to democratic women candidates running for state offices. The money raised at our convention and through donations has generated enough capital to make financial contributions to twelve candidates and fund an aggressive Get-Out-the-Vote effort.

TDW is supporting candidates running for seats in the Texas House, Texas Senate, and the Courts of Appeals. The candidates had to have a republican opponent, a strong commitment to the mission of TDW, a viable campaign plan, and the dedication and endurance to win a campaign. TDW is sending money now and women later.

It is critical that a candidate's Texas Ethics Commission report, as of July 15th, reflect large sums of money raised in order to show potential donors the candidate is serious and viable. In addition to the state organization contributing money, the board is challenging its members to make individual contributions now and throughout the campaign.

After the national convention TDW will roll out its coordinated GOTV effort. The board, past presidents, local chapters, campaigns, and other organizations will contribute to and execute a comprehensive voter contact plan. We will send TDW mailers to targeted voters, walk door-to-door, operate phone banks, and drive voters to the polls. We need to mobilize no less than 5,000 volunteers across the state.

There are eighteen democratic women candidates with opponents running for a state office seat. The twelve who responded to our questionnaire are receiving TDW financial support. Each will also be given the opportunity to work with TDW and to utilize our volunteer resources to get them elected. We are proud to announce the twelve candidates TDW is supporting:

- 1) Justice Jan Patterson, 3rd Court of Appeals, place 4;
- 2) Diane Henson, challenger, 3rd Court of Appeals, place 6;
- 3) Senator Leticia Van de Putte, incumbent, SD 26;
- 4) Elaine King Miller, challenger, SD 31;
- 5) Robin Moore, open seat, HD 9;
- 6) Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, open seat, HD 35;
- 7) Kelly White, challenger, HD 48;
- 8) Freda McVay, challenger, HD 84;
- 9) Nancy Stevens, challenger, HD 97;
- 10) Harriet Miller, challenger, HD102;
- 11) Katy Hubener, challenger, HD 106;
- 12) Charlotte Coffelt, challenger, HD127.

President's Message

I see a new role for TDW. A role TDW has never played. A role no organization in Texas has ever played. A role that is in step with our mission statement. A role that is in demand — too much demand. Members, it is time to take a look at, not only what we are; but, what we must become to fully accomplish our purpose.

Look around you, the state. What do you see? Throngs of women in office? Throngs of women running for office? Throngs of women in the queue to run for office? The answer to these questions is obvious.

Look around you, the state. What do you see? A comprehensive plan to support those women already in office? A comprehensive plan to elect women running for office (except *our* GOTV plan)? A comprehensive plan to identify and develop generations of women to run for office? The answer to these questions is equally as obvious.

Look around you, the state. What do you see? A state-wide organization of democratic women? A surge in interest and commitment in getting women elected? A broad reach into communities across Texas to access to our future leaders? The answer to these questions is what I am writing about.

I submit, after these elections, TDW will be in a position to take on a new role. This will be the natural progression from our involvement in races across the state. I envision leadership and education programs, a candidate's resource center, and interconnectivity like we have never know. I envision a blanket support system for democratic women in their endeavors to become more involved in politics. I envision sustainability among the participants through involvement and commitment.

I do see the problems we face. I also see solutions. Look around you. What do you see?



“They Don't Call us ‘Emily’s’,

They call us ‘Emily’s List.’” Ann Liston repeated to the room of TDW members at the Emily’s List *Political Opportunity Program* held April 2-3, in Austin. Emily’s List asked TDW to identify women who have expressed an interest in running for office to attend this two-day, course in what one must do to prepare herself to run and how to run a successful campaign. Every sub-searched, tried, and proven: fundraising strategies; tact. Success hinges on a handful of factors; a few the quality of the candidate’s list. A candidate is thorough list is a candidate’s best tool. It can tell and to which candidates and issues. It can tell her who voted, how often, and for whom. It can be used to target specific areas or groups of people. A bad list wastes time and money.

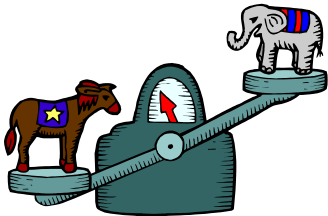
“A candidate is only as good as her list.”

fast-paced program. It was a crash for office, what to expect as a candidate, ject Ms. Liston discussed had been re-getting the message out; and voter con-are subjective, most are determined by only as good as her list. An accurate, her who gave money, how much, when,

Attendees were told to start making and updating their lists now. It is never too early to start running for office.

New Chapters, New Members. Sign of the Times?

TDW has added four new chapters since January: Big Country; South Plains, Chambers County, and Brazoria County. We have now 48 chapters across the state. Parker and Hidalgo counties are organizing and hope to start chapters by the end of the year. This represents a ten percent growth in the number of chapters in a six month period.



Our member numbers are growing as well. Just since the beginning of June the following people have joined the approximately 2,500 active TDW members: Temple Durdin; Ivy Hamm; Mary Hamm; Ann Hankamer; Linda Jackson; Carrie LaRive; Stephanie Muniz; Doris Nelson; Charlene Porter; Jester Marie Thomas; Dr. Carolyn F. Salter; Sally Turner; Eleanor Kreneck; Gwen Sorell; Billie Hopson; Melissa Irion; Susan Marksburg-Carr; Laurel Bellay; Delores Block; JoAnn Duncan; Laura Holt; Dot Nelson-Turner;

Coletta Sayer; Francine Baltazar; Kellie Flores; Mary Alice Palcios; and Kay Walker.

TDW Directory in Final Stages

If your contact information has changed in the last 18 months, e-mail or call in the following information to kelliebailey@tdw.org or 512.469.0905: name; any democratic party leadership roles; address; home phone; work phone; mobile phone; fax; e-mail address; and occupation. Please indicate any fields not applicable to you.

Thank You to all our Sponsors

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lbconger@earthlink.net.

TDW Members Play Significant Role in Party Leadership, Convention

This year's TDP convention held in Houston last month was a showplace for TDW members. With President Kellie Bailey as a vice-chair of the convention, Past President, Betty Richie, elected to the DNC, Gabrielle Hadnot elected Vice Chair of the party, and Past President, Sharon Teal, elected chair of the County Chairs Association; TDW led the way for all democratic women. We have an unprecedented number of members in leadership positions with the Party. Our members on the State Democratic Executive Committee include: Marianne Voss; Norma Narramore; Amber Anderson; Karl Silverman; Kay Walker; Jennifer Sanders; Theresa Daniel; Gary Horton; Gary Trull; JoAnn Jenkins; Bill Perkison; Kirsten Hancock; Zada True-Courage; Kathleen Hawkins; Mary Kirkwood; Boyd Richie; John James; Bill Holcolm; Mary Moore; Anna Hornsby; Carine Sabo; and Bruce Elfant. Our members elected as County Chairs include: Shirley Schmidt; Becky LeBreton; Tony Buzbee; Bobby Grant; Marcia Livesay; and; Chris Elliott; Dale Christerson.

TDW also hosted the women's caucus. The theme was "10 Things You Can Do to Get Democrats Elected". Cha Guzman, president of Palo Alton College, spoke to us about the funding of higher education and Kae McLaughlin, executive director of TARAL, spoke on choice issues. These themes hit home to so many of our members. Yet, few of us understood how the consistent limited funding for community colleges directly negatively impacts minorities and women and how few women there are in the executive positions in higher education. These positions determine the funding schemes.

In between speakers, attendees had the opportunity to meet and listen to the candidates. All democratic candidates were invited to attend our candidates' forum and introduce themselves. This is a win-win for both the candidates and our members. The candidates signed up volunteers and received donations and our members met federal and state candidates from all across Texas. Each candidate expressed sincere gratitude – they know TDW can turn out the support.
