

The Connection

Fall 2009

The newsletter of the Texas Democratic Women

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*Democratic National Committee
holds its Fall Meeting in Austin
Texas
September 9-13, 2009*

September 9th through the 13th was one of the most exciting weekends for Texas Democrats when the Democratic National Committee came to Austin.

Governor Kaine and his wife were thrilled to be in Texas and participated in all the events including dancing Friday night at the big event. The Texas Democratic Party hosted, "A Night on the Range" at the Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Game Ranch. Kudos to the staff of the Texas Democratic Party for all of their hard work.

Alice Germond, secretary of the DNC, had a wonderful time meeting as many folks as she could. It was not her first time to be with Texas Democrats as she was our TDW convention luncheon speaker in February. Alice was instrumental in getting the DNC to Texas. This was the first meeting here in over three decades.

Democrats from all over the world were in Texas having a great time and working hard to make the Democratic Party even more vibrant. Democrats Abroad were well represented. Their president, **Christine Schon-Marques**, who lives in Geneva, Switzerland, made the trip to be in Texas.

Some of our TDW members were honored by being appointed to DNC committees and to the DNC executive board. **Representative Yvonne Davis** was elected to the Executive Board from the Southern Caucus and **Chairman Boyd Richie** and **Sheriff Lupe Valdez** were elected to the cre-

dentials and Nominations Committee. Other DNC Texans were also selected for key positions.

TDW was well represented all weekend. **President-Elect Joanna Reagan** had a display with material from Texas Democratic Women at the Women's Caucus. **President Susie Blackmon**, was at the Women's Caucus as were many other TDW members from around the state. Our own **Senator Leticia Van de Putte** and **Representative Senfronia**



Thompson welcomed members of the DNC at the Caucus meeting. **Senator Van de Putte** had given an excellent speech at the Friday morning session to welcome everyone to Texas for the DNC meeting.

Pat Hobbs, the president of the National Federation of Democratic Women, and the three other DNC members who are elected by the National Federation on the Executive Board were in attendance.

Betty Richie was the interim chair of the Rural Committee of the DNC and was honored to have a great panel to speak to the Committee. Con't p. 2



President's Message

Dear TDW Members,

"For all my years in public life, I have believed that America must sail toward the shores of liberty and justice for all. There is no end to that journey, only the next great voyage. We know the future will outlast all of us, but I believe that all of us will live on in the future we make."

-Senator Edward M. Kennedy

We all share this great democrat's legacy. Our work for the "cause of his life" to pass Health Care Reform and win the 2010 Elections will live on in the future we make here in Texas.

Susie Blackmon

President, Texas Democratic Women

Picture of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's funeral mass.
Courtesy of Joanna Reagan



In Memory of the Brave Men and Women Lost at Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas

The Texas Democratic Women join our Killeen TDW Chapter in extending our sympathy, support and gratitude to the soldiers and their families at **Fort Hood**.

"We need not look to the past for greatness, because it is before our very eyes."

President Barack Obama at the Memorial Service, Fort Hood, TX, November 9, 2009.

DNC Meeting in Austin-con't.

Bill Brannon, Anthony Gutierrez, and Terrysa Guerra did an amazing job of addressing the issues of rural America. I am sorry that the whole DNC did not hear their presentation. They were very impressive. We are so lucky to have such talented people working for the Texas Democratic Party.

The DNC members were surprised and pleased to find that Texas is not the stereotypical state that they expected. The fact that we're only two seats from taking the Texas State House and we have so many excellent candidates and incumbents delivered a powerful message that great things are happening with the Texas Democratic Party.

The meeting was a success and members were very impressed with our great state. I heard many remarks about how friendly Texans are and that they would love to come back.



TDW CHAPTERS & MEMBERS!

Start thinking about Silent Auction items for the 2010 TDW State Convention. Wouldn't it be GREAT to have at least 1 item per chapter. The proceeds help support TDW events. Let's try to surpass 2009!



Reminder: Membership list, officer changes, address updates and dues are due in January.

Recap of Conference Call with Gov. Tim Kaine and the DNC

By Pat Hobbs

Gov. Kaine began the conference call by relaying his concern and prayers for those families and friends effected by the **Ft. Hood** shooting in **Texas**. He then gave a summary of the election results this month.

Bad news: We lost the 2 Governor's races in **New Jersey** and **Virginia** but the analyzes show that this should not effect the elections in 2010 as research shows President Obama has a 60% approval in **New Jersey** and a 57% approval rating in **Virginia**. (55% overall in the country)

Good news: A Democrat won the **New York** Congressional seat. It had been 100 years since a Democrat held that position. Democrats also picked up a congressional seat in **California**. We also won 2 mayoral seats in **Charlotte** and **Washington**.

What was learned: Independents in both Governors races went Republican. Voter turnout was very low with 10% voter turnout in **Virginia**. In the Congressional races, Independents went Democrat.

Health Care: **Gov. Kaine** felt the vote in Congress look very good and it did in fact pass with support from **AARP** and the **AMA**. **Organizing for America** got a lot of credit enlisting volunteers to make calls and making over 300,000 call to support health care. It is the first time in history to pass.

The Governor stated that he will be on **ABC's George Stephanopoulos Show** and will be more visible in January when he will no longer be governor of **Virginia**



Save the date: TDW Convention is February 26 & 27, 2010

Theme: "Be the Change You Want in Texas"

Wyndham Hotel and Woodard convention Center in Austin

Forms for Registration and Awards Nominations will be posted soon on the TDW Website at www.tdw.org

CHAPTER NEWS

"Great First Meeting"

Harris County—**Barbara J. Gardner, President**

Harris County chapter of TDW held their first reactivation meeting. **Alieca Hux** and **Marcia Manord** talked with the group that numbered about 30. **Harris County Chair, Gerry Birnberg**, offered the group use of the Democratic Party office for their meetings. They will continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

"Banquet and Installation of Officers"

Anderson County—**Charlene Hutchinson, President**

Anderson County chapter of TDW held its annual banquet and installation of officers on August 18. **Bill Brannon**, TDP Field Representative, spoke on messaging and **Vik Verma** with **Organizing for America** discussed Health Care Reform and what members could do to help support that effort. Awards were given to honorees and new officers were installed for 2009-2010.



A HUGE Thank you to....

Kathryn Mossom for the awesome job she has done as editor of the "TDW Connection".



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TDW MEMBERS	
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!	
2010	
Jan.	Dues are due.
Feb. 16	<i>First Day of Early Voting in the Primary</i>
26	TDW State Convention--
27	- Wyndam Garden Hotel-Austin
28	TDW Board Meeting
Mar. 2	PRIMARY ELECTION
<i>Dates subject to change—check with Chapter Leaders or see the website for updates.</i>	

Thank you.....

To all the TDW members that attended the DNC meeting in Austin this past September.



Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in.

Andrew Jackson (1767-1845) 7th President of the United States. Helped to shape the Democratic Party.

Change of Contact Information

Send any changes of your contact information to

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and
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The Connection is published quarterly. Send Chapter “happenings” or ideas for stories, columns, or news to...

newsletter@tdw.org

2009 deadlines for submission of articles

- ⇒ Fall : September 7th
- ⇒ Winter : December 7th