

HCWPC

Harris County Women's Political Caucus
3602 milam houston 77002 (713)524-5743



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1976

EVENTS OF INTEREST

This Month:

- June 5 PRIMARY RUNOFF--Don't forget to vote!
- June 16 HCWPC ACTION MEETING. Women's Center, 3602 Milam. 7:30 P.M.
- June 23 HCWPC PROGRAM MEETING. Janet Fisher is arranging to have a speaker for this program.

Planning Ahead:

August 6 - August 8 TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS ANNUAL CONVENTION
Want to serve on a committee? Contact State Office, 603 West 13th St.,
Suite 203, Austin, Texas 78701.

Need More Information? Call Sharon Macha at 723-7416, or
Alice Tomasello at 784-2457.

August 24 (Tuesday) HCWPC PROGRAM MEETING. Women's Center,
3602 Milam. 7:30 P.M.

Agenda: Endorsement of Candidates for November general election.

COMING SOON!

Sunday Brunch FUND RAISER

Want to Help? Need More Information? Call Pam Pitt at 683-8411,
785-3879, or
Julia Donoho at 621-1096.

ACTION MEETING CAPSULE--MAY 19, 1976

At the May 19 meeting, HCWPC members resolved to divide into two functioning groups--the HCWPC and the HCWPC Campaign Support Committee--for purposes of financing and accounting.

Members heard the following reports from committees:

Valerie Burson reported that membership is up to 98. During the meeting two new members joined and one former member renewed membership bringing the total to 101.

Vice-Chair External Olga Soliz is working to get a television public service announcement about HCWPC. She has talked with representatives of Channel 13 and Channel 26 and has arranged future meetings to inform them of HCWPC bylaws and purposes.

Treasurer Joyce Cragg reported that HCWPC now has \$932.66 in the bank. After bills have been paid, we will have \$363.00--\$130 for operating expenses and \$233 for campaign support.

Janet Fisher indicated that we need more people to march in the July 3 Parade. (If you can participate, please call Janet at 524-7693.)

Sharon Macha reported that the Lobby and Candidate Rating Committee is assembling information on candidates who will be running in the November general election. The information will be presented at the AUGUST 24 meeting when HCWPC will rate and endorse candidates.*

Other business conducted included: a decision to endorse candidates in judiciary races as well as legislative races; selection of Sharon Macha as Houston's nominee for the Woman of the Year Award and Ron Waters as the nominee for the Rex Braun Award (see stories, p. 3); and, a decision to raise money to help support Olga Soliz, Carter delegate, at the National Democratic Convention.

*In some races, there is no candidate that the Caucus can endorse. In these races, candidates will be RATED according to their answers to Caucus questionnaires.

IMPORTANT!

Look at the right hand corner of your newsletter mailing label. If your HCWPC dues have been paid for this year, there should be a "76" in that corner. For more information, see Valerie Burson's Membership Report, p. 4.

MACHA IS HCWPC NOMINEE
FOR WOMAN OF THE YEAR

SHARON MACHA--Geophysicist, Republican, Feminist, HCWPC's nominee for Woman of the Year.

Each year TWPC selects as Woman of the Year a woman who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of women's rights. Each TWPC Chapter may nominate one individual for the honor. At the May 19 Policy Council meeting, the Houston Chapter voted unanimously to make Sharon Macha its nominee.

Olga Soliz, who nominated Macha, explained "You can always count on her. Sharon has always found time for the Caucus." Soliz notes that Macha's work in the State and National Women's Political Caucus and other feminist organizations, as well as professional organizations, has gotten a lot of recognition and support for HCWPC. She also notes that during her term as HCWPC Chair, Macha worked with and aided various other organizations and community groups.

Sharon Macha has been active in politics for over ten years and in the Caucus since 1973, when she attended the first National Women's Political Caucus Convention. Last year she served as Chair for the HCWPC. This year, she is Chair for the Lobby and Candidate Rating Committee. She is also in her second term as Controller for TWPC.

Macha is an active Republican. She served on Congressional District 22's delegate Selection Committee for Ford. She has been selected as a delegate to the 1976 state Republican Convention. (She was also a delegate to the '74 state convention). She is also a member of the Republican Women's Club and Pct. 255's Representative to the National Federation of Republican Women.

Sharon also engages in professional activities and organizations. She is a member of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists & serves as the Society's representative to the American Geologic Institute Committee on Women in Geophysical Science. She is a member of the Geophysical Society of Houston and the Offshore Technology Conference Committee.

When Macha encounters sexism at work or in professional organizations she "raises hell." She has "raised hell" to get more women on the Offshore Technology Conference Committee and to eliminate sexist language from S. E. G. applications and forms.

Sharon Macha earned her professional status the hard way. When she first received her Physics degree, she was hired by an oil company for non-professional job. She noticed that men with the same degree had been hired for professional positions. So she worked twice as hard as the men--and, "raised hell"--to get professional status. After obtaining professional advancement for herself, Macha joined the feminist movement to make the road easier for other working women. She maintains: "You shouldn't have to be superwoman to get a job."

(See next month's newsletter for story about Ron Waters, HCWPC's nominee for Rex Braun Award)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

May was a good month for HCWPC. We picked up 18 new members or renewals.

Membership Strategy

I am currently trying to contact people who were members of HCWPC in 1974 and 1975 to see if they are still interested in the Caucus. Several persons including Sharon Macha, Janis Pool, Kathy Whitmire, Olga Soliz and Janet Fisher are helping with this, but we need more volunteers. If you are willing to call a number of persons to remind them about this years dues, please give me a call and I will provide the information you need.

New Members

If you would like to assist in preparation of a packet of information about the HCWPC to give to new members, please contact me. New members would be especially helpful in this endeavor since they are the ones who know what information they would like to have about us.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

I am preparing a printed membership list to be made available only to HCWPC members. If you are unwilling or unable to have your name appear on this list, please contact me at 522-3017 or Patsy Putnam, 645-0573. Remember, your name will be included if we do not hear from you.

DUES --- CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

If you do not see a "76" in the upper right hand of your mailing address label, our files indicate that you are not a paid member of the HCWPC. Unfortunately we are unable to continue to send complimentary copies of the newsletter to those persons who are not members. Now is the time to pay--use the form on the next page.

If you are unable to renew at this time, or if you have a question, please call me and explain your situation so we will not remove your name from our list.

Committee Coordination

As chair of the membership committee I would like to work with the chairs of the other committees in order to provide information about our members who may be interested in working with that committee. For the most efficient means of relaying the information required, I would like to request that all chairs of committees who need assistance check with me for persons to volunteer on their committee projects. Likewise, anyone who is working on a committee project or anyone who needs a job should let me know. I hope to make our membership files a central information source so that if you need something to do I can direct you in the appropriate direction, or if you need assistance, I can provide you with names of persons who may be willing to help.

Affirmative Action

The National Women's Political Caucus has developed an affirmative action plan for the state and local caucuses. In the next several weeks, you may be contacted to supply additional information about yourself to show our compliance with these guidelines. If you would be willing to assist in this effort to obtain additional information, please call me.

Dissemination of Information about HCWPC

Does your place of employment have a bulletin board or place to leave information about HCWPC? Do you need information about us to give to people you meet? Can you think of places we can leave literature about the Caucus? Call me if you need information or have ideas!

One More Time!!

Please note that you must contact me if you can't have your name on our membership list. Also, you must send in your dues or contact me if you aren't a paid 1976 Caucus member in order to receive the Newsletter in the future.

If you have any suggestions or comments on the preceding membership report, I would like to hear from you. Please call me at 236-8333 in the mornings, or 522-3017 late evenings. Together we can grow and grow.

Valerie Burson
Membership Chair

Clip and Mail form to MEMBERSHIP, HCWPC, 3602 Milam, Houston, TX 77002. Better yet, bring it with you to the June meeting.

Make checks payable to HCWPC.

NAME _____ PCT. NO. _____

ADDRESS & CITY _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ OFFICE PHONE _____

- ____ Enclosed is \$12.50 for State (TWPC) & local (HCWPC) membership for 1976.
 - ____ Enclosed is \$17.50 for national (NWPC), state, and local membership, 1976.
 - ____ Enclosed is \$7.50. I need to waive \$5.00 of my 1976 state dues.
 - ____ I need to waive all dues. Attached statement gives my reason.
- I am interested in the following committees: _____ Membership; _____ Affirmative Action; _____ Newsletter; _____ funding; _____ public relations; _____ political action; _____ Lobbying & Candidate Rating; _____ program.

Send HCWPC information to the following people:

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Report from the Vice-Chair External (Olga Soliz)

I am in the process of gathering pictures from past and present HCWPC Officers for a presentation of Caucus leadership throughout the past years. Pictures can be sent to my home address at 2102 Wroxtton Rd., Houston, Texas, 77005. For those of you who do not have a picture, I will be taking pictures so that no one will be left out.

On May 26, 1976, Sharon Macha and I met with Jean White, Public Service Director for Channel 13. Ms. White was most helpful in giving us the insight to Public Service Announcements. We are in the process of creating a PSA with the HCWPC Logo, statement of purpose and proper wording, so that Channel 13 will approve the PSA in conjunction with FCC regulations. Further, we are to make a choice as to what Caucus Member should announce the PSA (voice, face). Two names that have been suggested are Janice Blue and Sharon Macha.

Bits of Information

LULAC - The League of United Latin American Citizens, the oldest Mexican-American Organization in the U.S., has elected its first Woman State Director for the State of Texas. As State Director, Dolores Guerrero, a Banker, will bring to Lulac the type of leadership we are striving for.

There will be a meeting on Monday, June 14, 6:30 ;.m. at the home of Olga Soliz regarding the HCWPC Members Steering committee for the election of Janis Poole. The following persons can be contacted for more information. Chair-Olga Soliz, 524-5005; Pam Pitt, 785-3879 Vicki Escoe, 526-9722.

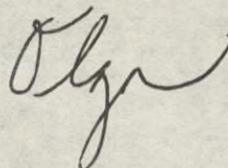
Gloria Guardiola was Election Chair for the Texas State NOW Convention and all went well...congratulations Gloria.

Edith Beychok, Chair of Houston WEAL Criminal Justice Refor, appeared before Commissioners Court, in behalf of Women inmates, to request equal educational facilities and needs for Women. The Court promised action on the request...congratulations Edith.

Janice Blue, Editor of BREAKTHROUGH, welcomes all news and congratulations Janice on your first six months in Business.

Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union Fundraiser will be held on June 18 at 8:00 p.m., 6021 Memorial.

LETS WIN WITH WOMEN - DEVOTE YOUR TIME, MONEY AND ENERGY TO THE ELECTION
OF WOMEN TO OFFICE - THE CAUCUS NEEDS YOU!



ELECTED DELEGATES
AND
STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTIONS

Texas Secretary of State Mark White has ruled that the 98 presidential delegates elected by Democratic voters in the May primary are eligible to participate only in the June State Convention. The June Convention will select 32 at-large delegates, who, along with elected delegates, will represent Texas at the Democratic National Convention in New York this July.

White says elected delegates are NOT eligible to participate in the second State Convention, held in September. At the September Convention, Democrats will choose state party leaders.

Liberal Democrat Billie Carr has challenged White's ruling. She notes that last year--when everyone thought Lloyd Bentsen would win all the Texas delegates--the Democratic National Compliance Review Commission ruled that elected delegates could participate in state conventions.

Carr has suggested (Houston CHRONICLE May 21, 1976) that the elected delegates--mostly liberal--are being excluded because Governor Briscoe fears losing control of the state party to the liberals.

Olga Soliz, HCWPC member and an elected delegate(for Carter), asked HCWPC to support the right of elected delegates to attend the September Convention as well as the June Convention. At the May 19 Action Meeting, members resolved to send a letter to Secretary of State White protesting the exclusion of elected delegates from the September Convention.

HCWPC MEMBERS GO TO STATE PARTY CONVENTIONS.

The following HCWPC have been selected to attend the state conventions of their political parties:

Eileen Elfant	Democrat	Senate District #7
Sharon E. Macha	Republican	Senate District #7
Kathy Whitmire	Democrat	Senate District #15
Debra Danburg	Democrat	Senate District #15
Olga Soliz	Democrat	Senate District #7
Donna Duerk	Democrat	Senate District #7
Billie Carr	Democrat	Senate District #7

WOMAN'S ADVOCATE NAMED

HCWPC is pleased that Mayor Hofheinz has appointed a new Woman's Advocate. The new Advocate is Nikki Van Hightower, NOW member & Professor of Political Science. Van Hightower earned her undergraduate degrees at University of Houston and her Ph. D. at New York University. She has taught political science at the University of Houston.

According to Chronicle reporter Tom Scott (Houston Chronicle, 5-23-76), Van Hightower is going into her new job with a ready-made opposition--three city council members insist that Houston does not need a Woman's Advocate.

Van Hightower is evidently prepared for her opposition. She points out that women make up 37% of the work force in Houston, but only 18.8% of city employees. She told Scott that "Women still are clearly stereotyped in terms of what jobs they hold... There are almost no women employed in skilled crafts, and there are very few females who are officials, administrators or managers of city departments."

Van Hightower's goals include:

- increasing the number of women hired by the city
- increasing the number of women promoted by the city
- improving maternity benefits.

She also plans to look into police and fire department agility tests and the possibility of day care centers for city employees' children.

PUC ADOPTS RULE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

HCWPC member Harriet Hubacker attended the Public Utility Commission Hearings in Austin May 17-19. At Hubacker's urging, the Commission included in its General Rules a provision against discrimination by utilities on the basis of race, sex, or marital status.

Hubacker gives the following as an example of how the rule will work. In the past, when a couple divorced, utility companies would credit their deposits to the man; the woman would have to make new deposits. Under the new rule, companies will have to credit half of the deposit to each.

CAMPAIGN WORK

Have you worked in a campaign this year? If so, start counting up your hours. Pam Hazen, a new member, is working up a form (to appear in next month's newsletter) for reporting volunteer hours. The Caucus can use the information to increase its influence with elected officials.

C L A S S I F I E DHELP WANTED

WOMEN TO MARCH in the July 3 Parade particularly women employed in or who possess knowledge of non-typical women's occupations. For example, bus taxi, truck drivers, pole climbers, plumbers, police and fire women. Call Janet Fisher, 524-7693 or Alice Tomasello, 784-2457.

CENTER SITTERS to answer phone, record messages, sort mail. For more information and how to sign up call Donna Duerk, 665-8682.

ASSISTANCE ON TWPC ANNUAL CONVENTION--working on committees to plan convention. Contact TWPC, 603 W. 13th St., Suite 203, Austin, TX 78701.

DELEGATES TO ATTEND TWPC CONVENTION August 6-8, in Dallas. Look for more information in newsletters to come, but put it on your calendar now.

PHOTOGRAPHER to take photographs of meetings and members for development of public relations file. Call Olga Soliz, 524-5005

Development of telephone chain, call---

HCWPC COMMITTEE HELP WANTED

NEWSLETTER: typists, ad sales people contributors. Call Patsy Putnam, 645,0573.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: people to develop and maintain contacts with news media sources. Call Olga Soliz, 524-5005.

FUNDING: persons to develop and implement fundraising projects. Call Julia Donoho, 621-1096.

POLITICAL ACTION: people to study pending legislation and to facilitate the search for women candidates. Call Eileen Elfant, 723-0674

LOBBYING AND CANDIDATE RATING: persons to screen and rate candidates. Call Sharon Macha, 723-7416.

PROGRAM: Persons to develop and implement programs. Call Janet Fisher, 524-7693.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: prospective minority members such as Republicans, Mexican Americans, Blacks, older members. Call Helen Hopkins, 664-3643.

MEMBERSHIP: people to call unrenewed members and locate new members. Call Valerie Burson, 522-3017.

A FINAL NOTE FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Want to let Caucus members know what your committee is doing?
Tell them about it in the newsletter!

If you have a story--or just a bit of information--call me or bring it to the Policy Council Meeting (3rd Wednesday of each Month).

Patsy Putnam
5510 Starling
Houston 77017

645-0573

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