

# TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

October, 1973

Vol. 1, No. 1

## Moving Fast



We're laying the groundwork for this Year's primary goal: to popularize the notion of women, feminists running for office. If you look at the green sheet\* on women in public office which Betsey Wright, assistant to Frances Farenthold, prepared, you can see how far we have to go.

Happily, one part of that information is already outdated by Gov. Briscoe's appointment of Judge Mary Lou Robinson to the Court of Civil Appeals. I think it is clear that we must add women of talent and commitment to every category.

We can do it, but it will take a united effort with respect for our differences.

The Texas Women's Political Caucus attracts independent women — feminists who will not be bossed, bought, or sold by politicians in or out of this organization.

We can, and we must, come together around the issues we share, but if we are to succeed, we must rejoice in our variety.

We must learn to share the self confidence we gain from victories and the lessons we learn from defeats.

I enjoy the challenge of working with you, and look forward to our victory celebrations throughout the state next spring.

—Jane Hickie

\*Available from state headquarters.

## State Report



To improve the status of women, we must learn to compile empirical data. It is especially important to define cultural, economic, and legal controls over our daily lives. Our social progress must include removal of restrictions that deny us the opportunity to make decisions about ourselves.

The TWPC 1973 Legislative Report is one vehicle with which to evaluate how well women are represented. The State Legislators are rated by a percentage of favorable votes in this study which is available from the state office.

Study your legislators' scores and talk to the legislators about them. Let them know there is a group of constituents who are concerned and are ready to take action on the basis of these and other evaluations.

We have a particular need for elected officials who understand how women are affected by both overt and covert controls. We must become astute at defining these controls from the local to the state level so that they can be lifted.

Together, we can make a difference in '74 as we move toward a position as a viable and strong political force of tomorrow.

—Cathy Bonner

## Our Sincere Thanks

No single individual has worked harder for the Texas Women's Political Caucus than Cathy Bonner. As our only staff member, she has put out the newsletter, lobbied in the House and Senate throughout the session, helped local caucuses in innumerable ways, dealt with other organizations and the press, helped organize two conventions, and maintained the state office since January when she started to work.

The salary she has been receiving would easily qualify her for foodstamps. Because Cathy is unassuming, generous, and kind, many of us have not stopped to thank her. Cathy, thank you. You've done a lot for us and for all women.

If any of you can help with contributions for her salary, please do so.



## Farah Strike

At our recent TWPC convention a resolution was passed to support the Farah Strike and Boycott. We can begin by contacting the people listed below:

**Austin**  
Emma Barrientos  
2204 Bluebonnet Lane  
Austin 78704  
442-4719

**Corpus Christi**  
Rita Golden  
712 Blucher, #4  
Corpus Christi 78401  
883-5044 work  
884-5466 home

**Houston**  
Gloria Rodriguez  
CULA  
3520 Moore  
Houston 77009  
227-4022

**San Antonio**  
Farah Strike Hdqtrs.  
6550 Old Hwy. 90  
San Antonio 78227  
673-4062  
673-6881

If there is no one in your community to contact the next thing you can do is survey the stores, both department and men's clothing stores, to determine if they carry Farah slacks. This should be done by visiting all the stores in your area and checking through the racks of pants and identifying the labels displayed below. As you will note not all Farah slacks are sold under the Farah name.

The two labels that are being pushed (besides the Farah label) are Daire, which is usually in discount houses (but not exclusively), and SU-PAR, which is a jeans style. Neither of these labels say "Farah" anywhere on them.

Another (almost) sure way to identify Farah slacks is by the RN number. Two labels do not show the RN number. One says Farah, the other KNITS.

(See Farah Strike on Page 4)



## Political Action

As the Vice-Chair of Political Action, I see several projects which need immediate attention.

The first state-wide political action project which we need to work on is the drive to get Amendment 3 (and 2) on the November ballot ratified. As you will remember, the state convention endorsed this amendment, which would allow single persons to own a homestead and would require the consent of *both* spouses before a homestead could be sold or abandoned.

I am currently gathering information on this. I will then work up a fact sheet and, I hope, a pamphlet which we can all use in our efforts to ensure the passage of Amendment 3. We have only two months and therefore must get to work on this right away.

Another project yet to finish is the final decision on the resolutions which the state convention did not have time to consider. You will soon receive a packet with those resolutions and instructions on how to handle them.

Also, according to the by-laws, I am supposed to "provide assistance" to local caucuses. Please contact me if you feel I can help you in your local efforts. Also, please keep me informed on what you are doing so that we can share our knowledge and avoid duplication of efforts.

If you would like to serve on the Political Action Committee which has the major responsibility for these and other projects, please send me your name, address, and phone number. I need *many* such volunteers.

—Betty A. Barnes



## Finance

Phase Four hasn't slowed the rising cost of lobbying, political campaigns, legal and educational efforts for feminist issues, or the costs of operating the state office.

If the Texas Caucus is to become an important and effective voice for women, an immediate financial transfusion is vital.

We need you, your checkbooks, and your fund raising abilities. If you are willing to serve on the finance steering committee, please send your name and address to me immediately! (Mail to Jane Macon, 224 W. Craig, San Antonio, 78212 or call 512 / 734-2217.)

—Jane Macon



## Membership

Dear Sisters,

As I looked across the audience at the state convention I was very proud to see so many women — some who were there for the first time and others who have been beating the bushes for years.

I saw something else too: women from all walks of life and backgrounds who are attempting to become aware of themselves in order that others may become aware.

The Texas Women's Political Caucus is dedicated to bringing all women into all political areas. Also, the TWPC is striving to bring women to an increasing awareness of themselves

politically which would eventually motivate them to seek political office.

I feel that one of the ever present diseases which can destroy the TWPC is that of *apathy*. It will be the attempt of the Membership Committee with your support to eliminate this disease and replace it with awareness, excitement (political), and dedication.

I feel that there are several approaches we should take this year in looking at membership of the TWPC. Some of the approaches are:

1. Attempt to enlist the support of special interest women.
2. Attempt to enlist support of minority women in order to erase the image of a middle-class white organization.
3. Make potential members aware that the TWPC is not just another fly-by-night organization.

I am confident that with your support the Membership Committee will be able to accomplish these goals as well as many more. Membership is one of the keys which can unlock the doors to support, dedication, political awareness and power.

—Loretta Jo Shaw



## Legislation

In order to carry out the resolutions passed by the caucus at the state convention it is of utmost importance that this standing Committee on Legislation deliver to our members that which will enable them to make an accurate judgment on all issues, but especially those affecting women.

The legislation vicechair will serve as a vital part of the TWPC because it will be through the efforts of this committee that state and national legislative information will be gathered, evaluated and then disseminated to all members of the TWPC.

The TWPC can be a useful and effective organization for our entire community only if its members are accurately informed on the issues. The TWPC can then begin to judge politicians on their performance. The committee will proceed to lobby for those priorities which concern the TWPC and oversee the execution of duties of the TWPC administrative committee.

In addition, the legislative committee will work with the other standing committees to continue to encourage women to organize more local caucuses and register our women to vote and compete.

Much has already been accomplished by the TWPC as we witnessed by the overwhelming success of our state convention in that it attracted approximately 1,000 enthusiastic women as reported in the press. There is a big job ahead of us in the next year but I feel confident that the leadership of the TWPC chairwoman will guide us toward realizing our goals.

—Pauline Martinez



## Communication and Organization

The Committee on Communication and Organization will be made up of four subcommittees:

- 1) A subcommittee on structure, concerned with the constitution and by-laws of the organization. Their first task will be to go over the newly-adopted bylaws and make grammatical and stylistic changes.
- 2) A subcommittee to compile and publish the newsletter.

Lela Hinkle of Austin will chair this subcommittee and will be managing editor of the newsletter.

3) A subcommittee on public relations. The chairperson of the caucus is the official spokesperson for the TWPC, but we will need people to distribute and aid in the assembling of press releases.

4) A subcommittee on local caucus organization. This group will aid new caucuses in getting organized. In addition to helping prepare materials which explain caucus structure and goals, members of this group will make contacts in areas where no local caucus exists to help new units get started.

If you are interested in being on any of these subcommittees, please contact the state office or Ruth Milburn, 1404 Sul Ross, Houston.

—Ruth Milburn

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## Mes Souers



Soon, there will be a synopsis of TWPC convention events, complete with resolutions, summaries of the speeches, committee and workshop reports, and other pertinent information.

To preempt this with a semi wrap-up seems less important at the moment than the following.

There was a tremendous amount of talent and knowledge in San Antonio on July 17, 18, and 19.

Lawyers, scientists, historians, educators, politicians, technical writers, unionists, ethnic specialists, ad infinitum — in short, several hundred people who don't have to ask secretaries to do their typing gathered and grew.

It is almost as if we have developed an information system. Beginning next issue, we will list women and (in abbreviated form) note their special knowledge and talents.

So, please send your name, address, and phone number with a synopsis of the type or types of information to which you have access to 1208 Baylor, Austin, Texas 78703.

As feminists, we must draw on each other's experiences and knowledge to forward ourselves and this state for all humanity.

—lela hinkle



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## Correspondence

Dear Sisters and Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for presenting to me the First Annual Woman of the Year Award at the Caucus convention in San Antonio recently. I feel very fortunate and am deeply moved and honored.

As I told you in my acceptance speech, each one of you deserves an award for the fine job that you have done in making the Texas Women's Political Caucus the respected group that it is in Texas today.

My beautiful plaque is hanging on the wall in my Legislative office, and I proudly show it to everyone who comes in!

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Weddington

Please try to have all correspondence and news items for the November issue into the state office by October 15.



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## TWPC Notes

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### Abortion

Write your congressperson now and urge her or him to *refuse* to sign a discharge petition which would move a constitutional amendment against abortion out of committee. We can't let them reverse progress. There is little time, so act as soon as possible.

### Resolutions

Your local caucuses will be voting on the remainder of resolutions proposed at the state convention. You must vote proportionately according to the credentials report adopted in San Antonio. You may not amend, but must simply vote *for* or *against* each resolution.

### Southwest Business Women

The first Southwest Regional Business Women's conference will be held on Nov. 2 and 3 at the Hilton Inn in Albuquerque, N.M. All women are urged to attend. For packet information, contact Lupe Anguiano, P.O. Box 7306, San Antonio, 78207, or call 512/224-7526.

### Kennedy-Griffiths Bill

For information concerning the Health Security Program (Health Security Act sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy and Representative Martha Griffiths) write Fina Gonzales, 6627 Crown Ridge, San Antonio, 78217.

### Bella

Watch for Abzug's credit for women bills to emerge from committee shortly after the session opens in D.C. Act immediately by encouraging your congressperson to support these bills.

### The Caucus Needs Money

Political Action is not free. Please contribute whatever you can. You may use the enclosed form or a copy of that form.

### New Valley Caucus

A caucus is beginning in the Valley. The first major meeting will be in October. Contact Eva Wardlow, 1631 Hamilton, Harlingen, 78550, 512/423-8343.

### High Plains

Gwen Martin, acting chairwoman of the High Plains Women's Political Caucus, announced that Rep. Sarah Weddington planned an Oct. 1 speech in Amarillo at presstime.

### Chicana Newsletter

For the National Chicana Women's Political Caucus newsletter, mail \$5.00 to Lupe Anguiano, P.O. Box 7306, San Antonio, 78207.

### Hooray Ms. Kathy Ann Sheley

John B. Duncan, executive director of Texas Civil Liberties Union, announced September 6, 1973 that a case originated by Ms. Kathy Ann Sheley of Corpus Christi has resulted in a Navy policy change.

Texas CLU has received the following response from the Department of the Navy after intervening on Ms. Sheley's behalf because the Navy had only made an exception in Ms. Sheley's case and had not made a policy change to affect all dependents and their families in regard to this question:

"This is to advise you that the Department of the Navy will  
(See TWPC Notes on Page 4)



## United Farmworkers

Contrary to some information the United Farmworkers strike is still in full swing. We passed a resolution at the State Convention to support the strikers.

Do not buy iceberg lettuce or California grapes and wine. Do not shop Safeway.

If you can make a contribution of time and/or money, contact Holly Harrison at 3109 Grandview, Austin, 78705 or 512/454-0241.



# TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Newsletter

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## FARAH STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)

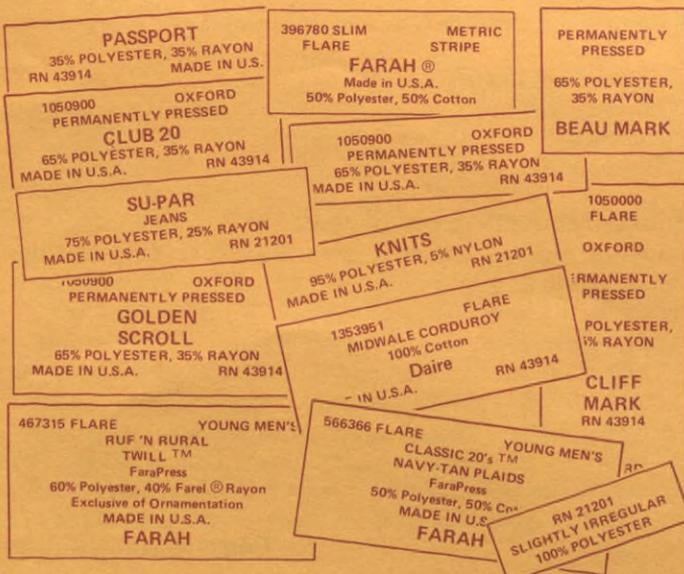
The RN numbers appearing on the labels are RN 43914 and RN 21201. These are "Registry Numbers" that are issued by the Federal Government to identify the firm that manufactures under a specific label.

When you have finished your survey of the stores in your city please forward it to the nearest Farah Strike Headquarters listed above. If you could, please try to estimate the percentage of Farah stock in each store. It would be quite helpful.

Again, in areas where there is no boycott activity taking place the Farah Strike Headquarters has a slide show available and is willing to send a striker and the slide show to a TWPC meeting to further expose your membership to the issues involved in the strike.

There is another function you can perform: research into your community identifying various community organizations, such as political, religious, ethnic, women's, civic, and senior citizens groups, to whom the Farah Boycott message can be taken. Get names, addresses and phone numbers and also forward these to the Farah Strike Headquarters in San Antonio.

¡VIVA LA HUELGA! ¡SI SE PUEDE!



## TWPC NOTES

(Continued from Page 3)

recognize a dependent or any member by his/her legal name, thus providing equal treatment under the law."

Thus, military dependents have the right to retain their maiden names as their legal names under the Texas Equal Rights Amendment and to secure Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Cards in that name.

## VA Loans

"In consideration of present-day social and economic patterns, the Veterans Administration will hereafter recognize in full both the income and expenses of the veteran and spouse in determining ability to repay a loan obligation. VA regional offices have been instructed that there shall not be any discounting of income on account of sex or marital status in making such determinations. Lenders are urged to take the foregoing into account in considering the applications of veterans for guaranteed loans."

This is the word on the status of spouses of veterans from LG Bulletin #15-73.

## Join TWPC Today: We Need You

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to contribute  \$10.00  \$25.00  \$50.00  \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help raise the status of women in Texas.
- I enclose \$10.00 for at-large membership in the TWPC for the remainder of 1973. This includes my special membership subscription rate for the newsletter of \$1.00 per annum.
- I wish to pledge \_\_\_\_\_ monthly to the state office.
- I wish only to subscribe to the newsletter at \$10.00 per year.
- Please Xerox or copy this form and return to:

TWPC  
1208 Baylor St.  
Austin, Texas 78703