

HCWPC

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



NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER
1974

HCWPC ENDORSEMENTS

On the basis of candidates' records and/or response to the HCWPC questionnaire, the policy council has endorsed the following candidates for the November general election:

Legislative dist. 79.....Ron Waters (D);
dist. 81.....Woody Denson (D);
dist. 85.....Anthony Hall (D);
dist. 86.....Craig Washington (D);
dist. 87.....Ben T. Reyes (D) and Maria Jimenez (R.U.);
dist. 90.....Karey Bresenhan (D);
dist. 93.....Frank Waltermire (D);

Congressional dist. 18.....Barbara Jordan (D);
dist. 8.....Bob Eckhardt (D);

County judge.....Bill Elliott (D);

J.P. Pct. 5 #1.....Nancy Westerfeld (D);
J.P. Pct. 6 #1.....Richard Vara (D); and
J.P. Pct. 8 #1.....Mike Driscoll (D).

Because of either the failure of candidates to respond to caucus questionnaires, or the lack of a worthy candidate, no endorsements were made in the other legislative districts, nor in the races for judge, criminal dist. ct. #4; Harris County treasurer; congressperson, dist. 22; state board of education, #18. Endorsement of statewide candidates is the responsibility of TWPC.

KAREY'S CAMPAIGN: GARAGE SALE

The biggest fundraiser in the primary race was a garage sale of items donated by supporters of Karey Bresenhan, democratic candidate for state representative of district 90.

Let's do it again! Bring your white elephants to Karey's Campaign Headquarters at 2424 Bissonnet any time in the evenings or on weekends AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

No firm date has been set for the sale but it is tentatively planned for the middle of October - hurry so the items can be priced and the word spread about the sale.

And speaking of fundraising, Karey's Campaign needs contributions - of any size, whatever you can afford - for a mailing to voters in district 90. The cost to mail one brochure to each registered voter in district 90 is more than \$2,000. Please help. We can win with your support.

To volunteer to work, come by Headquarters or call 524-9306.

KAREY'S CAMPAIGN: CAUCUS COMMITMENT

At the October business meeting the Caucus voted to give Karey Bresenhan's campaign a pledge of \$750.00. For the caucus to continue to be viable politically we have to meet our commitments.

Karey needs our support. That's all of us from the newest to the oldest member.

To start things off members of the policy council have already made their pledges for the total amount of \$140.00.

Without the money for printing and the stamps for mailing, a thousand volunteers cannot do a mailout. SEND YOUR CHECK OR PLEDGE TODAY.

Enclosed is a stamped, addressed envelope waiting for a pledge.

----- CIP AND MAIL TO: -----

Susan Carlman
Caucus for Karey
2508 Helena
Houston, TX 77006

My check for _____ dollars is enclosed.

I pledge \$5.00 ___ \$10.00 ___ \$15.00 ___ \$20.00 ___ \$25.00 ___
Other _____ to be paid before Nov. 15th.

Make checks payable to HCWPC.

THE CITY EMPLOYMENT PICTURE: PART TWO

report by Barbara Lane-Farley and
Suzanne Marshall

Last month's newsletter cover story concerned statistical evidence of the lack of employment and promotion equity at City Hall for women and minorities, and the vast salary differences. The story drew a deplorable picture; women seemingly have even less opportunity than the previous year!

Several Caucus members, headed by Priorities Committee Chair Olga Soliz, attended a late afternoon meeting with city hall officials on Monday, Sept. 23, to discuss Affirmative Action programs of Houston's municipal administration. Women's Advocate Poppy Northcutt was also in attendance.

The meeting was held in the office of Frank Petty, the mayor's appointee to head the Citizens' Action Center. Petty is also chair of the city's Affirmative Action Committee. He told Caucus representatives that the Mayor and City Council have already approved an affirmative action plan (submitted by his committee) but that no budget has, thus far, been devised for implementation of the plan through establishment of a center for this work. A proposal will be offered by Petty at a future City Council meeting and a budget of \$125,000, covering 2 or more years, will be suggested. The Affirmative Action Plan will, under this proposal, be carried out by a team of 8 or 9 qualified persons under a Director of the program (under the Mayor's office).

It was suggested to Petty that one of the reasons that women and minorities seldom are promoted to positions of responsibility is that individual department supervisors have the ultimate voice in deciding who is promoted, despite the fact that these persons have passed Civil Service exams for promotion. Petty agreed that this system is imperfect and that, if current affirmative action plans do not correct this problem, it may be necessary to have the city charter amended to provide the necessary improvements.

Late into the meeting, John Castillo, head of the city Manpower Division, entered and informed Caucus members of the work his office is doing. According to Castillo, the training and employment handled through P.E.P. is progressing well; more women than men are being processed under this program. He stated that one serious problem, that of promoting long-time employees through transfers to different departments, is not being done to any great extent. Objections from workers who have seniority (and from the AFSCME) are part of this problem. Transferred employees, under personnel rules, cannot be given an increase in salary of more than \$18.00 above their previous wage. Since the new jobs may call for pay scales greater than this \$18.00 jump, an obvious impasse exists.

Civil service director Vince Rachal, interviewed by the caucus on Oct. 3, frankly acknowledged the discrimination women face in the city, asserted that his office's goals for women were much the same as HCWPC's, but insisted that in the final analysis inequities in city employment can be rectified only so far as money is budgeted to rectify them.

CITY EMPLOYMENT PICTURE CONT'D

Caucus members present at the meeting were especially concerned with areas such as job classification, salaries, and personnel policy. Rachal told the group that civil service has been studying areas in which women make less than men for the same jobs. The office is gathering data on the equalization of salaries for women and men, with the end of the year as target date for completion. Rachal said that federal grant money has been obtained for the Affirmative Action office, the director of which will be appointed by the mayor. He suggested that caucus women interested in this position send resumes to George Strong, the mayor's executive assistant.

Rachal told caucus members that, though city salaries are generally low, a study of clerical salaries citywide indicated that city clerical/office workers' salaries are pretty much comparable with those in private industry. However, a caucus member wondered if it might not be very difficult for comparative studies to reflect the real situation of city office/clericals in comparison with private industry's, since city office/clerical workers tend to be classified in low levels, while doing work which actually deserves a higher clerical, or even administrative, classification.

The caucus women reiterated their concern with the need to equalize salaries, and urged that civil service recommend graded percentage raises by which the lowest-paid employees would receive the highest percentage increase. Rachal said that he will meet this week with the mayor on this subject, and that the mayor is also in favor of graded percentage increases. No money has yet been allocated for merit raises; civil service is in the process of soliciting employee evaluations and requests for money to make salary adjustments from city department heads. Merylyn Whited of the Controller's office told Rachal that she will keep a tally of requests for merit raises, to ensure that the pattern of the past--an inordinately high percentage of raises for white males, as compared with their percentage in the city employment population--is not repeated.

Personnel counseling is especially important because a factor in women's low status in city government has been their being consistently channeled into low-paying clerical or service jobs, and excluded from the higher paying ones such as police, fire fighters, skilled craft, and blue collar. Karen Carter of the civil service department, who was also present at the meeting, has compiled a booklet which lists positions, requirements, and salaries for applicants at civil service, in an effort to help with counseling. She is also developing a process to channel all applicants, through civil service, public employment, training, and a job bank.

Rachal told caucus members that the mayor and city council, who hold the purse strings and make policy decisions, will have the final word on efforts to bring women into parity with men in city government. Caucus members responded that both the mayor and the council depend heavily on recommendations from civil service--and other sources--in matters of personnel. It is of the utmost importance that the director of civil service keep in mind the problems of women in city employment when making such recommendations.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The special problems of women public employees were the subject of testimony from several witnesses at the Sept. 13 hearing held by the Texas Public Employees Study Commission. The Study Commission, appointed by the governor, is collecting testimony from public employees around the state in order to report to the legislature on possible legislation to relieve some of the problems which plague public employment. (Among the 11 members of the Commission in attendance at the Houston hearing, non-whites and non-males were represented by one black (male) and one woman (white)--symbolic perhaps of one of the problems of public employment: the underrepresentation of women and minorities.)

Women's Advocate Poppy Northcutt testified in some detail on the status of women in city employment. In Houston, as nationwide, men of all races make a higher median salary than women of all races. Among women, white women have the highest median salary, Spanish-surnamed women the next, and black women the lowest.

In the city, women are more likely to be employed in low income jobs, less likely to be employed in high income jobs. Ninety-one percent of office and clerical workers are women, but females in that job category earn less than the male office and clerical workers. Many women, Ms. Northcutt said, are classified as office and clerical workers when the job they do is really administrative.

Ms. Northcutt suggested that governing bodies should address themselves to ways to comply with already existing laws against discrimination, in such areas as child care and pregnancy-related disability, and should seek guidance where necessary from the attorney general. She charged the Study Commission to examine any legislation it may propose for compliance with the Texas Equal Legal Rights amendment.

Despite legislation, the Women's Advocate said, discrimination does still exist. For example, insurance is not regulated in Texas to prohibit sex discrimination in benefits and rates; and fire fighters and police officers are assumed to be male, with provision made for the widow, not for the surviving spouse.

Lollie Gasaway, law librarian and assistant professor of law at U. of H., spoke on the problems of faculty and professional women at the university. She pointed out that across-the-board raises don't provide for equalization of existing inequities in salaries. She told the Commission that attitudes which refuse to consider women for upper level positions must be changed before women will achieve parity with men in salaries, positions, etc., but that at the same time change can't be made to wait on consciousness raising: a major university such as U. of H., Ms. Gasaway said, must not be allowed to be not in compliance with the law. She suggested the establishment of a formal grievance procedure, and some state action (such as monies restricted to equalization) to lead the way to parity for women.

Beverly Lyle of the Minority Women's Employment Program testified on the particular problems of minority women with college degrees. The purpose of MWEP is to supply qualified professional women to meet employment needs in industry and government, but Ms. Lyle told the Commission that barriers against women are even greater in public employment than in industry. Among the methods which have the effect of excluding minority professional women are the present system of testing in Houston (few of the tests required for employment have ever been validated by an indepen-

WOMEN IN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT CONT.

dent agency, as the law requires), and the lack of a centralized personnel office. At present, minority women hold only 1% of the managerial jobs and 3% of the professional jobs in the Houston standard metropolitan statistical area. Ms. Lyle said that MWEF does receive professional job orders from the city now--in contrast to the former administration, which seemed to think of minorities in terms of sanitation and service workers--but that nevertheless MWEF has had greater success in placing minority women with the state than with the city.

JEFF DAVIS NURSES

The recently-released report of the committee of health professionals on the situation at Jefferson Davis hospital vindicated some of the charges made by the nurses fired for participating in the May sick-out, though it discounted others.

The committee report said that the Jeff Davis maternity area is clean and well-equipped--a finding contradicted by the testimony of the nurses, who charged that dirty and unsanitary conditions were a real health hazard to women and infants at Jeff Davis. However, in the interim between the announcement that a committee would be appointed, and its actual investigatory work, considerable painting, repairing, fixing-up and equipment-buying could have taken place. If some real improvement has been made in sanitation and equipment, much credit for that must go to the nurses, whose courageous efforts first brought widespread notice to Jeff Davis.

The committee agreed with the nurses as to the gross inadequacy of space and personnel in labor and delivery, given the patient load Jeff Davis must accommodate. Among problem areas cited by the committee were inadequate intensive care units for newborns, lack of privacy for patients, staff accommodations, and staff shortages.

The committee recommended construction of a new maternity hospital at Jeff Davis, and urged the immediate implementation of the following steps: study the possibility of contracting with other hospitals to provide maternity care for some women; remodel the current area to provide privacy and more adequate working and lounge space for doctors and nurses; recruiting, education, and compensation plans to obtain additional professional nurses; establish a supervisor to coordinate nursing activities between labor and delivery and newborn nursery areas.

If the committee's recommendations are acted upon, the nurses' actions will have resulted in some improvement of conditions at Jeff Davis; ironically, no action has yet been taken to reinstate the nurses themselves.

JEFF DAVIS NURSES CONT.

The mass meeting sponsored on Sept. 28 by the Coalition to Support the Nurses was well-attended. Sissy and Reps. Barbara Jordan and Bob Eckhardt sent telegrams of support which were read at the meeting. But work must still be done to achieve justice for the nurses, and the Coalition continues to meet. For information on what you can do, contact Susan Heavey at 528-5168 or 691-2283 X40.

RAPE CRISIS COALITION

report by Alice Shrader

From Washington Blue Sheet in August 1974 Do It NOW:

The Mathias Rape Bill has been attached as an amendment to Kennedy's 1974 Health Services Act, S. 3280. The National Center for Control and Prevention of Rape that the bill would create within the National Institute of Mental Health would conduct a continuing study and investigation of amongst other things, the effectiveness of existing Federal, State and local laws dealing with rape, the treatment of rape victims, the causes of rape and the effectiveness of existing public and private counseling programs designed to prevent and control rape. Non-profit organizations would be eligible for funding under Part G., Sec. 281 "for the purpose of conducting research and demonstration projects concerning the control and prevention of rape."

The Kennedy Act has passed both the Senate and the House. The Title 8 Rape Bill was in the senate version BUT NOT IN THE HOUSE VERSION. The Health Services Act is going into conference committee where the final version will be compiled. THE RAPE BILL CAN STILL BE DELETED!! It is essential that feminists write their Senators and Representatives urging them to urge the committee to retain the Rape Bill. Houston Reps. are listed below; write them immediately. In addition it may help to write the conferees themselves. Those names and addresses have arrived from NOW legislative office in Washington. Call Alice Shrader at 926-5809 or 523-2521.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen
240 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Wash. D.C. 20510

Rep. Jack Brooks
2239 Rayburn
House Office Bldg. dist. 9
Wash. D.C. 20515

Sen. John Tower
142 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Wash. D. C. 20510

Rep. Barbara Jordan
1725 Longworth dist. 18
House Office Bldg.
Wash. D.C. 20515

Rep. W. R. Bill Archer
1608 Longworth
House Office Bldg. dist. 7
Wash. D.C. 20515

Rep. Bob Casey
2353 Rayburn
House Office Bldg. dist. 22
Wash. D.C. 20515

Rep. Bob Eckhardt
1741 Longworth dist. 8
House Office Bldg.
Wash. D.C. 20515

RAPE CRISIS COALITION CONT.

DISCUSSION GROUP:

A new discussion group for sexual assault victims begins Tuesday, October 8. Some victims from the first group have volunteered to talk with other victims on a one-to-one basis. For specifics, call Bette Anne Knoll 493-4656 or Sharon Moline-Vincent 661-3231.

Carole Kneeland will speak about her news series and her interviews with rapists in a Florida rehabilitation center. Place: Women's Center. Date: Oct. 15, Tuesday. Time: 7:30 PM. Event: Coalition meeting.

LETTERS NEEDED TO HELP A SISTER AND A FEMINIST CAUSE:

Carole Kneeland's series on rape on Channel 2 has brought the station huge amounts of negative feedback from folks who can't believe they are actually showing such nasty things on TV. The series has been two-minute shorts on the regular news programs. She has even interviewed rapists, which is a first for television and an incredible educational tool for dispelling myths about rape. News Director Ray Miller did an editorial in defense of the series on the 6 PM news September 18. Write supporting Kneeland and Miller. Send letters to Jack Harris, General Manager, KPRC TV, 8181 Southwest Freeway or PO Box 2222, 77001. Send copies to Kneeland, Miller and NOW. Letters thanking the Houston Post for Miriam Cass' series would also be nice. Many thanks to all letter-writers!

COALITION OF LABOR UNION WOMEN

report by Peggy Hall

The Houston Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (C.L.U.W.) was chartered in Sept., 1974. The organizing conference was held at the Machinists Hall in Spring Branch (Long Point at Silva). The interim officers are Deborah Leonard, Peggy Hall, Mary Schlett, and Ann McClung.

More than 40 women came to the general meetings and workshops. There were workshops on the ERA, organizing the unorganized, repeal of 14B and setting up the agency shop, problems of minority women in the labor force, public employees and the cause of the J.D. nurses.

The evening was given over to music, free food, dancing and good company. Friends and supporters from all around gathered to celebrate the proud beginning of a group dedicated to helping working women.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOW

To celebrate NOW's birthday (Oct. 29), the NOW Minority Women and Women's Rights Task Force plans a party for Saturday, Oct. 26, starting 8 PM at the Women's Center. The party will be casual, free (including food, etc.), and will provide a chance for feminists to get together, get acquainted, and generally enjoy themselves. No separate invitations will be sent HCWPC members, so consider yourselves cordially invited as of right NOW--and don't miss it!

WOMEN IN THE VALLEY

A Chicana Organizing Conference is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 16, in Harlingen, Texas--the first to be held in the Valley for women. The conference, planned especially though not exclusively for Chicanas, will address itself to the role of the emerging woman in today's society, focusing on such areas as leadership, education, and child care. The convention aims at doing some consciousness-raising among Valley women, though it will not have a political or specifically feminist orientation.

The convention will last from 9 AM to 4 PM and a number of Houston feminists are planning to attend. For further information, contact Cilia Estrada, 682-3575, or 222-8949 or write Eva Wardlow
Director of Dept. of Community Affairs
KGBT-TV
P.O. Box 711
Harlingen, TX 78550

JOB RANKING

The Labor Dept. recently published statistics on the job ranking of women and men which document "officially" what women have been experiencing for years. Briefly, women make less than men doing the same jobs; women in jobs dominated by men make more than their sisters in other occupations, but less than the men who are their colleagues; men in occupations dominated by women make more than their female colleagues, but less than men in other fields.

Not quite news, right? But for those of us who sometimes wonder if all the hassle, work, and effort are really worth it, here are a few statistics from the report, an analysis of 1970 census data by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to revive our feminist energy:

The average annual earnings of the best-paid women--in engineering, medicine, college teaching, and millwrighting--were far below those of men in like positions.

JOB RANKING CONT.

Men earned more than women in ALL of the 385 occupations analyzed by the BLS, except public kindergarten teachers: Men \$5068, women \$6073 (these munificent salaries also indicate how highly our society values children and their early education).

The highest paid men were physicians, who averaged over \$25,000 a year; women physicians, who ranked 7th among other working women, averaged \$9300 yearly, which puts them 128th on the male earnings table.

Women dentists make \$6351 a year, compared with men dentists at \$21,687; women lawyers made \$8980, men lawyers \$18,749; women judges made \$8883, men judges \$21,529.

The BLS statistics indicate that, where better-paying or high-status jobs are concerned, the number one occupational qualification is still a penis.

HEALTH CARE CAUCUS

report by Margaret Buchorn

The following proposals for health care were submitted to the Policy Council Sept. 15th. We need dissemination of these issues. Any member who would like to work in this caucus, please notify the Chairwoman. We need capable, enthusiastic women throughout the state. Any question regarding proposals submitted or suggestions for other proposals will be gladly received. Communication may be sent to: Margaret V. Buchorn, Health Care Chairwoman; 8122 Mobul; Houston, Texas 77036; (713)792-3216 office; (713)772-1592 home.

- I. Right of all human beings to learn of alternate medical choices; have available consultation within specialty. This right applies to women exclusively in these situations:
 1. Cancer of breast--radical mastectomy, partial, or none.
 2. Hysterectomy--total, partial, is there medical necessity?
- II. Support existing mental health legislation to improve standard of care in mental hospitals, but more especially support local involvement to promote use of community mental health centers to prevent wherever possible institutionalization, with all its concomitant griefs and problems.
- III. Look at situations of families (especially single parent) with chronically ill children as to employment, public assistance, insurance with existing federal and state legislation. Work with appropriate caucus to see if better implementation or new legislation is needed.
- IV. With conviction that mental health is as essential as physical health to the well being of individuals, and that availability of competent mental health professionals has

HEALTH CARE CAUCUS CONT.

been restricted in Texas, to support freedom of choice for consumer in selecting qualified psychotherapists, non-medical as well as medical, who have proven sensitive to and cognizant of the peculiar difficulties of women in our society, be circulated throughout caucus membership.

- V. Effective support of existing maternal and child health programs to try to insure minimum personnel in all counties of Texas (at least a Public Health Nurse), encourage community interest and participation in local health departments.

ABORTION

Several Houston area congresspeople earned special mention from Women's Equity Action League for their stands on the right to abortion. WEAL praised Reps. Barbara Jordan and Bob Eckhardt for having voted, in '73 and '74, against anti-abortion amendments in Congress. WEAL cited Reps. Bill Archer and Bob Casey as opponents of the right to abortion, on the basis of their support of anti-abortion amendments to the Legal Services bill, Community Services Act, and an appropriations measure for HEW. Archer has also sponsored a number of proposed constitutional amendments to return legal jurisdiction over abortions to the state level.

WEAL also noted that both Texas senators voted for an amendment, now law, to the Public Health Services Act in March '73, which provides that no hospital can be required to perform sterilization or abortion against its religious or moral convictions, even if it is the only hospital in the area.

All this is no news to feminists, but it doesn't hurt to be reminded. Write thanks to the congresspeople who support our right to control our own bodies; and let those whose votes advocate compulsory pregnancy know where we stand.

CAUCUS CHRONICLES

Beginning in October, the early Saturday edition of the Houston Chronicle will provide a weekly calendar of events in the Houston area. HCWPC has been requested to provide information about any politically educational projects or programs we may schedule for that week. Vice-chair external Kathy Whitmire will handle notification of the Chronicle, so anyone who knows about events of interest to Houston and Harris County women should make sure Kathy's informed about them by the Thursday before the Saturday the notice should appear. Call Kathy at 521-0649, or 228-9531 (h.).

OLD BUSINESS:

HCWPC POLICY COUNCIL

Besides action on endorsements and discussion of the pledge of money to Karey's Campaign, the policy council elected Peggy Hall as co-chair, to fill the position left vacant by Sharon Moline-Vincent's resignation.

Barbara Marcus has been appointed to fill the position of chair of the police advisory committee, but a feminist is still needed to serve as caucus representative to the Rape Crisis Coalition. Anyone interested should contact Barbara Lane-Farley at 461-6075.

CONTEMPORARY WOMAN SERIES

report by Kathy Whitmire

The Caucus' program meeting for September featured Dr. Alice Whatley of the University of Houston Continuing Education Center. Dr. Whatley shared with us her experiences in developing the "Contemporary Woman Series" now being offered at the University of Houston, and she asked for input from the Caucus regarding ways the series could be made more relevant to Houston women.

The Contemporary Woman Series, offered for the first time in September, 1974, is a program of workshops and conferences designed to help women explore alternative lifestyles, and investigate new educational and employment opportunities. These programs are especially helpful to women who have been homemakers for many years and need encouragement and guidance in pursuing new lifestyles and occupations.

Everyone attending the meeting was enthusiastic about the program Dr. Whatley has put together and the potential benefits it can provide for women.

For anyone desiring further information, brochures describing the Contemporary Woman Series are available at the Women's Center or from the University of Houston Continuing Education Center (749-4182).

Chicana Caucus Report

The Chicana Caucus will hold a meeting on October the 15th, 1974 at 7:30 P. M. at Olga Y. Soliz, residence at 2102 Wroxton Rd., All members are invited.

The Chicana Caucus has set priorities for 1974/1975 one of the priorities is to obtain seed monies for a film on the Chicana Woman as she is today..... enough research and studies have taken place, its our aim to prove and show where she is.....right behind our white and black sisters, but ready and able to be up front with the rest of our sisters.brothers.

The first section of a film was taken on September the 3rd, 1974, by Janice Blue, we are grateful to her.

Three of the Chicana Caucus Members are seriously thinking of running for Public Office, specifically for School Board Member, Justice of the Peace and City Council.

TWPC POLICY COUNCIL - SEPT. 15

report by Margaret V. Buchorn

Policy Council was called to order with 28 State Caucus Members present. Houston was represented by Barbara Lane Farley, Sharon Macha, Margaret Buchorn, Olga Soliz, Kathy Whitmire, Celia Estrada and Pam Pitt.

Old business included the TWPC Convention report. The financial situation is that the Caucus should clear about \$600. All financial reports are not yet in. The other items of old business concerned the endorsement of the Speaker's race. The Political Action Vice-Chair reported that this race did not meet our definition of "State wide." Agreement was reached to leave this definition as is.

Explanation and discussion of various resolutions adopted by the Convention consumed considerable time. There was general reflection that the hasty, impulsive manner in which some resolutions were adopted led to much difficulty in understanding what charge is to policy council. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson urged that the Caucus take time to prepare well documented position statements before contacting legislators.

The following reports were given by the Vice-Chairs.

Comptroller, Sharon Macha, presented the present operating budget, which council agreed to adopt for 3 months. Ms. Macha also suggested raising money by selling left over convention booklets to local Caucuses. There was general discussion of budget, especially involving need for new office space in Austin and need to conserve all money for legislative efforts.

Finance, Elaine Wheeler, reported on her need to have input from local caucus groups on fund raising projects. The TWPC is looking for a professional fund raiser who would work for a percentage of money raised. Suggestion was made of the usefulness of a leaflet of Do's and Don'ts for fund raisers.

Political Action. Ernestine Glossbrenner asked for volunteers for Political Action Committee. Betty Barnes and Patty McGee are already on this committee. Response of the independent candidates to questionnaire submitted was distributed. Local caucuses are to study the questionnaires and ballots are to be returned by October 1st, so that press release representing TWPC endorsement of any candidates can be announced.

Recommendation was made that henceforth endorsements be made at State Convention, and that Political Action Committee be appointed by Policy Council. The possibility of a Legislative Day wherein Caucus members from throughout the state would "blitz" the Legislature was proposed. The necessity of identifying expertise within the Caucus, and compiling a directory of prominent women throughout Texas (not limited to Caucus members) as put forth. The merit of an Advisory Committee was discussed.

TWPC POLICY COUNCIL CONT.

Legislation. Pauline Martinez reported for Olga de Leon, who was in an automobile accident en route to Council meeting. Activity of this Caucus has centered around approaching other women's groups (League of Women Voters, Business and Professional Women, etc.) with proposal of a coalition in regard to specific women's issues. A professional lobbyist is needed and proposal would include \$1,000 contribution toward lobbyist fees from each group. El Paso Caucus has already begun such a coalition, and Sharon Macha has spoken to League of Women Voters in Houston. Local caucuses are to pursue this vigorously.

Membership. Loretta Jo Shaw urged local caucuses to keep member lists current. Motion was put in regard to national dues, which was broken down into 2 parts.

1. TWPC supports stand that NWPC increase national dues to \$5 per member per year. Motion passed.
2. That no form of integrated dues system be implemented on state level. Motion passed.

The latter motion also carried recommendation to National Caucus Steering Committee that compromise can be reached in states with no state office. At present, Texas is only state with state office.

Communication. Angie Flores had resigned as Communications Chairperson. She had agreed to continue with responsibility for the Newsletter, and solicited articles by the 25th of each month.

Jenny Taylor of Dallas Caucus was elected by acclamation to Communications Chair.

Administrative. The 5 vacancies on the Administrative Committee were elected as follows: Kathy Whitmire, Houston; Pam Pitt, Houston; Ona Porter, El Paso; Pauline Martinez, San Antonio and Martha Smiley, Austin.

The council is to meet as scheduled, i. e., Policy Council the 1st Saturday of September, December, March and June. With the exception of these meetings, Administrative Committee meets 2nd Saturday of all other months.

Motion was passed that 50% of 37 Policy Council members constitutes a quorum.

Margaret Boone explained the services of a credit union and discussed joint organization of a credit union in Dallas by local Caucus, WEAL and Women for Change. Further information can be obtained from her at this address:

Feminist Southwest Federal Credit Union
P. O. Box 431
Dallas, Texas 75221

Announcements were made of these meetings: Child Care '76, October 11-13 in St. Louis; "The Politics of Child Care", November 7-9, Austin; Chicana Organizing Workshop, November 16, 9 to 4, TSTI, Harlingen, Texas.

Cilia Estrada urged that all caucus members abide by the convention resolution which states that no one can speak as official spokesperson for TWPC without express permission of the state chair or vice chair for that subject.

WHAT'S NEWS???

Deadline for the November newsletter is October 28. We ran a bit late this month because busy people had some trouble making the deadline. That's probably unavoidable, with as much work as needs to be done and as few (relatively) feminists as there are to do it, but this time let's make superwoman efforts to meet the deadline! Short announcements may be choned to Barbara Marcus at 528-2525, or 229-9585 X7. Longer news items should be written out and (a) mailed to the editor, Suzanne Marshall, 1842 Kipling, Houston 77006; (b) handed to Suzanne; (c) put in the caucus newsletter/vice-chair internal box at the Women's Center.

If you plan a committee meeting, or if you know of some event/activity/project that we all should hear about, set it in the newsletter. We can't expect to have full participation of all caucus members in caucus activities unless everybody knows what's going on, And when. And where.

As usual, we need people to help type and otherwise get the newsletter out. A special need right now is someone to report activities of the Rape Crisis Coalition for the newsletter; a caucus rep. in the Coalition is also needed, so perhaps the two could be the same person. The woman (not a member of HCWFC) who has been doing such an excellent job of keeping us informed of Coalition activities has asked for someone from the caucus to take over doing the report. Surely one of us can manage that!

Our thanks for all your praise for the newsletter; it's as good as we all make it, so mutual pats on the back are in order all around. We need the continuing support, information, contributions, etc. of EVERYBODY to keep its quality up. But so far no one has responded to our solicitation of all kinds of commentary. Can't be that so many feminists have nothing to say; must be that nobody has time to put it down on paper. If that's the case, we'll transcribe your tapes and we promise not to delete any expletives.

Let's hear from you!

*****QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAUCUS?*****
CALL ONE OF THESE PEOPLE

Chair: Barbara Lane Farley, 461-6075

Co-chair: Peggy Hall, 528-3424

Vice-

chair

Internal: Suzanne Marshall, 523-9024; 224-5441 x61

External: Kathy Whitmire, 521-0649, 228-9531 (bus.)

Secretary: Susan Heavey, 528-5168, 691-2283 x40

Treasurer: Sylvia Garcia, 529-7860, 225-0521 (bus.)

Committee

chairs: Election of feminist candidates: Pam Pitt, 523-9647

City pledges: Olga Soliz, 524-5005, 748-7573 (bus.)

Political action: Peggy Kress, 772-8559

Affirmative action: Patti Payne, 568-4600

Lobbying and candidate rating: Diane Richards, 664-4929

Sexuality and reproduction: Deanie Murphy, 668-4600

Membership and information: Susan Carlman, 524-5531

Funding: Harla Kaplan, 772-4987

Cilia Estrada, 682-3575, 222-8949

CALENDAR

October

- 11-13: Child Care '76, St. Louis.
- 15: Carol Kneeland, Channel 2 reporter, speaking on her news series and her interviews with rapists in a Florida rehabilitation center, at the Rape Crisis Coalition meeting. 7:30pm, Women's Center.
- 16: Program meeting. 7:30pm, Women's Center. Reports from members who attended the state party conventions.
- 23: Policy council meeting. 7:30pm, Women's Center.
- 26: NOW birthday party, sponsored by the Minority Women and Women's Rights Task Force. 8pm, Women's Center.

November

- 5: General election. Yes, it's that close.
- 7-9: "Politics of child care" meeting, Austin.
- 16: Chicana Organizing Conference. 9am-4pm, Harlingen, Tx. (See article for details)

15: Chicana Caucus - Meeting - Olga Y. Soliz, 2102 Wroxton Rd., 7:30 P. M.
 Res: 524-5005 748-7573 Bus.
 JOIN US!

CLIP AND MAIL FORM TO: MEMBERSHIP, HCWPC, 3602 Milan, Houston, 7006
 Make checks payable to HCWPC.

NAME _____ PRECINCT NUMBER _____
 ADDRESS & CITY _____ ZIP _____
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___ Enclosed is \$12.50 for full HCWPC membership through all of 1974.

___ Enclosed is \$7.50. I need to waive \$5 of my 1974 state dues.

___ I need to waive all dues. Attached statement gives my reason.

___ I am interested in the following committees: ___ funding

___ political action ___ affirmative action ___ lobbying and candidate rating ___ sexuality and reproduction ___ membership

Send HCWPC information to the following names. Please enclose \$0.6 or 3 10 ¢ stamps for each to cover the cost of sending 3 newsletters, if possible.

NAME _____ ADDRESS, ZIP _____
 NAME _____ ADDRESS, ZIP _____
 NAME _____ ADDRESS, ZIP _____

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September 26, 1974

Dear Friends of Children,

When Mayor Fred Hofheinz was running for office, he signed a pledge with the Houston Women's Political Caucus to further the services of child care under his administration. In May of this year, the American Jewish Committee called a meeting of women from across our city to discuss building bridges among all women of the community. It was decided that a common denominator for most people is a concern for the welfare of children. During a series of meetings of a very diverse group of people, the second phase of discussions centered around what to recommend to the mayor as a method toward developing the City's role on behalf of the children of Houston.

Our group calls itself the Ad Hoc Task Force for Children. Specifically, we are proposing that the community assess the role and functions of a permanent City Office for Children. We want to share and discuss our recommendations with you at a meeting on October 8. At the meeting our proposal will be outlined. Discussion will center around the need for a city office involved in children's affairs and its relationship to the county and to other agencies. After the discussion you will be asked methods for seeking community support of the proposal so that the concept may be presented to the mayor as a community effort for children.

We hope you will regard participation in this process of discussion and citizen involvement as imperative as do those of us who have been working on the task force for the past several months.

We look forward to seeing you at 7:30 PM at 41 Oakdale - Presbytery of the Brazos - on October 8.

Together for children,

Marie Oser

Marie Oser

On Behalf of the 54 Members of
The Ad Hoc Task Force for Children

Harris County Women's Political Caucus
3602 Milan
Houston, Texas 77002



ONE WOMAN WILL WIN
Make sure it's The Right One

One woman will win...
Make sure it's the right one.

For the first time in Texas history,
two women are facing one another for
a legislative position in the
November general election.

ONE woman is a member of NOW and the
HCWPC and was endorsed by HCWPC in
the primary: **KAREY BRESENHAN.**

She needs your help to win...
Volunteers & Contributions.

Bresenhan Campaign Headquarters
2424 Bissonnet
Houston, Texas 77006

Elect
Karey Bresenhan
Democrat

State Representative
District 90