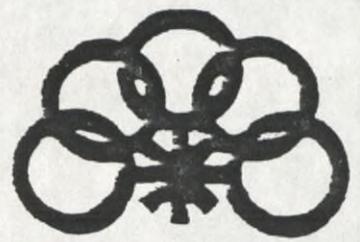


VIEWPOINT



AUGUST, 1982

Harris County Women's Political Caucus

4730 Willowbend Houston, Texas 77035

* * * * ANNUAL CONVENTION AUGUST 17 * * * *

It is that time of the year when a changing of the ranks takes place in the HCWPC. This year our Annual Local Convention will take place at the Houston Area Women's Center on Tuesday evening, August 17, 1982 at 7 p.m. with wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m. Mark your calendar and come to the HCWPC ANNUAL LOCAL CONVENTION.

This Convention will focus exclusively on the election of our officers and setting and implementing the goals and priorities of the Caucus for the upcoming year. All offices will be open and anyone who has energy, time and desire is qualified to run. The elected positions which need to be filled are: Chair, Co-Chair, Vice Chair External, Vice Chair Internal, Vice Chair Political Action, Vice Chair Legislation, Vice Chair Membership, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chair Finance. Names of HCWPC members are placed into nomination by a self-nominating procedure. Persons who wish to get actively involved in feminist politics are urged to consider running for office. Please call Lynne Parsons at 965-9681 for additional information concerning the elections.

In addition committee positions are open on the following committees: membership, fundraising, political action, and legislation.

The evening's agenda will include election of officers, committee caucusing and the passage of resolutions for the 1982-1983 year. Resolutions will be recommended by the Resolutions committee as well as from the floor. Eileen Elfant is chairing the Resolutions Committee for this Convention. She can be reached at 723-0674 if you wish to serve on her committee.

Come join us for an evening with friends which will be full of discussion, debate and planning. Help us and help yourself to make the 1982-1983 year, a year where we Win With Women.

SUFFRAGE DAY ACTIVITIES

Help celebrate Women's Suffrage Day on Thursday evening, August 26, 1982, by attending the festivities sponsored by the Houston Area Women's Center. The events for the evening will be held at the School of Public Health. The evening will include several guest speakers as well as a special showing of the film She's Nobody's Baby. A reception offering refreshments will follow the film. For more information, contact Helene Bernstein at 528-6798.

CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES SEMINARS TO BE HELD

SEPTEMBER 11 & 12

Houston has been selected along with nineteen other communities across the nation to be a site for a two day seminar on "Campaign Techniques" sponsored by the National Women's Education Fund, a non-membership, nonprofit, nonpartisan resource organization whose primary goal is to increase the numbers and influence of women in public life.

The seminars are scheduled for September 11 & 12 of this year. Topics to be covered during the two day seminar will be getting into a campaign, fundraising, field organization skills (communications through the media of telephone and mail), voter registration techniques and producing the vote on election day. The seminar fee for the two days is \$70.00 which includes a free copy of The Campaign Workbook. Registration for one day only is \$35.00 and the workbook must be purchased separately. The Campaign Workbook is published by the National Women's Education Fund and sells for \$25.00.

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Senate consideration of an anti-abortion proposal is very likely before the end of July. Various sources report that Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker has agreed to allow the full Senate to debate only one anti-abortion proposal this year. Baker and the Reagan administration have yet to voice support for any particular one of several such proposals which are eligible for a full Senate debate and vote, including SJR 110 {Hatch's "states' rights Constitutional amendment"}, S1741 {Helms' "human life bill"}, S2148 {Helms' again} and S2372 {Hatfield's}. {Both S2148 and S2372 cut off federal funding for abortions, including the education of medical students in abortion techniques, and each has further ramifications--S2148 contains wording from "human life" bills} According to the National Right To Life Committee's legislative update of July 10, they are pushing for SJR 110 but see little likelihood of its being considered unless Baker or the Administration can be pushed by the public to swing behind it. Instead, NRTL reports it is more likely that Helms will bring up S2148 as an amendment to legislation concerned with raising the federal debt limit--and this could well be before the end of July. NRTL reports that the anti's mail volume of mail to Congress during the past two months has been "good", but they are urging their members to write Baker, the President and their Republican Senators to support SJR 110.

An immediate, overwhelming PRO-CHOICE message must be sent to Washington. Neither Tower nor Bentsen have indicated how they would vote on S2148; Tower has said he won't support SJR 110 in its present form; Bentsen won't say.

Sen. John Tower
142 Russell Sen. Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen
240 Russell Sen. Off. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Howard Baker
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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TWPC STATE CONVENTION A SUCCESS

Caucus members from across the state met recently at the Inn on the Park in Houston for the 11th Annual TWPC State Convention. With vigor, energy and spirit, participants shared information and personal expertise on topics ranging from Fundraising for Someone Else to New Federalism in Texas to Getting Appointed in a number of sophisticated, well-organized and professional workshops held throughout the week-end.

The Convention was well attended and the accommodations were quite luxurious. All of us benefitted from the efforts of Brenda Loudermilk, HCWPC member and Convention Coordinator here in Houston. Her planning and organizing helped to create a smooth transition from one event to another. Thank you, Brenda, for a job well done!

Highlights of the week-end included Mayor Kathy Whitmire, recipient of the TWPC Woman of the Year Award, greeting Convention participants early Saturday morning with words of encouragement to Caucus members desiring to enter political races. In her usual competent and articulate manner, she reviewed her campaign strategy used in the mayor's race and explained some of the goals and objectives her administration has. In addition a Keynote speech by Ann Richards, Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, helped each of us to relive the long journey that all women have traversed in order for us to move on and merge into the mainstream of power bases. Richards' speech left most of her audience visibly moved and with renewed energy to continue our journey toward justice and equality. Each of these women parted with valuable advice and each member of the audiences became richer from the experience.

The Rex Braun Award recipient for 1982 was U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. During a Sunday brunch, Congressman Leland proudly accepted this award and reaffirmed his commitment toward support of the ERA and pro-choice legislation. Ben Sargent, political cartoonist for the Austin American Statesman and Pulitzer Prize winner, received the TWPC Large Media Award for 1982. In Ben's works he makes clear his opinion that it's "ridiculous in the American System for any class of citizens, especially half of them, to have defacto rights that are less than anyone else." The Convention booklet featured several examples of his

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For each of you who has been meaning to hang something on that bare wall or for those of you who would like to give a unique birthday, Chanukah or Christmas gift, the HCWPC Second Annual Art Auction is just around the corner. Plans for a big turnout at the Art Auction have been put into action.

The event is scheduled to occur on Saturday evening, September 25, 1982, at the Ramada Inn Southwest on the Southwest Freeway near the 610 loop. This year our facilities will offer a larger viewing area, a cash bar and a door prize.

A varied selection of artwork will be available for purchase at 8 p.m. that evening. An opportunity to preview the art will immediately precede the auction at 7 p.m. Plan to arrive around 7 p.m. so that you can read about each piece of art and decide which pieces most intrigue and interest you.

Admission to the Auction is \$5.00 per person. Mastercard and Visa will be accepted. All proceeds after costs will be donated to the HCWPC. Tickets are currently available for purchase from all officers. If you would be interested in selling tickets to your friends, family and co-workers for this event, please call Marianne Tomecek or Lynne Parsons.

A special opportunity to help sponsor this Art Auction is still available. Sponsors, those individuals donating \$25.00, and patrons, those people interested in donating \$50.00, will receive free admission into the Auction as well as the printing of their names on a special card to accompany invitations to the event. Many people have become sponsors and patrons and the HCWPC would like to thank each of you for responding to our requests with such generosity. If you would like to be a sponsor or patron, mail your check to Lynne Parsons at 5742 Stillbrooke, Houston, Texas 77096.

Remember the more people who attend this event, the greater the opportunity for the HCWPC to raise money for those candidates seeking elective office who will help support legislation which will effect our lives.

PLAN NOW to bring yourself, your spouse and several friends to the ART AUCTION for an evening of fun and excitement. Maybe that bare wall will finally find a friend of its own.

TAKE A CHANCE ON WOMEN'S ART

How would you like to become the new owner of a beautiful, handmade quilt which fits a double, queen, or king size bed? Recently such a quilt was donated to the HCWPC by Great Expectations Quilts, Inc. for fundraising purposes. Many of you may have seen this beautiful work of art at the HCWPC booth at the State Convention. For those of you who did not, it will be on display at the Local Convention August 17. To give you an idea of its design format, it is a blue patchwork lone star surrounded by one small blue patchwork star in each of its corners and sits on a solid white background with intricate stitching. It was made by Amish women in Pennsylvania and sells for a retail value of \$550.

One numbered ticket will be given to any person for each \$1.00 donation to the HCWPC. The new owner of the quilt will be chosen from a drawing of all ticketholders. The drawing will take place at the HCWPC Second Annual Art Auction on Saturday, September 25, 1982 at the Ramada Inn on the Southwest Freeway near Loop 610. You do not need to attend the drawing in order to be eligible to win the quilt. We, of course, would be very sad if you missed the Art Auction and an evening full of delightful entertainment.

All proceeds from the ticket donations will be given to HCWPC. Tickets are available from any of the officers. If you would be able to sell tickets to your friends, family and co-workers, please call Marianne Tomecek or Lynne Parsons.

We want to extend our deep appreciation and our heartfelt thanks to Karey Bresenhan, owner of Great Expectations Quilts, Inc. for this donation to HCWPC. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to raise money for the HCWPC and urge everyone to participate. (Con't)

(State Conv Con't)

wit and satire. The Small Media Award for 1982 was presented to Barbara King of the McAllen Monitor. Hidalgo Caucus members attributed the great success of their year old caucus to the time, energy and resources of Ms King and the exposure she has provided to the Caucus in this southern Texas community.

Many words of inspiration and encouragement were shared during this 1982 Convention. Yet the consensus remained the same. It is time for us to get people in government who will make policies we can live with. We have seen by the failure of the ERA that we can no longer depend solely on "pleading our case" to incumbent legislators. We need to let the public know that we intend to Win With Women. We shall not be silent. As our former TWPC Chair, Jane Wells, stated: " We have among us the brains and energy to set a new tone for women in politics and for issues that affect the lives of women. Armed with the tools of careful planning and renewed insight, let us therefore go forth."

The TWPC State Convention will be held in San Antonio next year in conjunction with the National Convention. Plan now to be a part of what can only be a thrilling renewal of energy and spirit and solutions.

(Quilt Con't)

Ms Bresenhan's store, Great Expectations Quilts, Inc. has one of the largest selections of quilts in Houston and offers "Quilt-as-You-Go-Classes". Custom designed quilts are also available as well as 800 coordinated quilt fabrics that are in stock. The shop is located at 155 Town & Country Village Shopping Center off of I10 at West Belt. Shop hours are 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Treat yourself to a large selection of handmade textiles at Great-Expectations Quilts, Inc.

Karey Bresenhan has been a Caucus member for many years and her spirit and generosity should serve as a reminder that whatever each of us has to offer will indeed help the rest of us to be that much closer to our goals of equality and justice.

It's time to take a CHANCE on Women's art. Donate your dollars now for the opportunity of a lifetime to become the owner of a fabulous, intricate work of beauty, time and human energy.

1981-1982 HCWPC OFFICERS

Chair	Michaelyn Saukel 661-8817
Vice Chair External	Joellen Snow 523-2974, 880-2339
Vice Chair Internal	Dusty Seckinger 999-7227
Pol. Action Chair	Miriam Schwartz 723-7230
Legislation Chair	Bonnie Pasek 221-2051, 528-5872
Membership Chair	Sharon Macha 651-1380, 723-7416
Finance Chair	Marianne Tomacek 226-4986, 861-5093
Secretary	Willie Portwood 528-2238
Treasurer	Lynne Parsons 965-9681, 721-2682

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Houston, TX 77035

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