



# TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

## Newsletter



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### STEINEM TOUR REPORT

Gloria Steinem's Texas Tour for the Texas Women's Political Caucus resulted in a successful fundraiser for all involved. The State share from the fundraiser was approximately \$1,000. Congratulations and many thanks to all the locals who participated as well as all TWPC members and friends who attended and helped make Steinem's tour so successful.

### CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE

The L.B.J. Library and the L.B.J. School of Public Affairs have tentatively scheduled a "Conference on Women in Public Life" for November 10 and 11, 1975. The purpose of the conference is to bring together women involved in public life in Texas in both elective, appointive, and related volunteer activities to discuss with their counterparts on a national and international level the role of women in public activities today. The fall-out would be the educational and consciousness raising, but it will also come to grips with issues and problems. The goals of the conference will be: 1) to encourage women to fuller and more effective roles in the public arena; and 2) to utilize the students at the LBJ School as workshop coordinators with responsibilities in developing the workshops and subsequent reports to be published. Liz Carpenter, who is actively working on the organizational aspect of the conference, has asked the TWPC to assist and participate in the conference. TWPC will keep the membership informed on any new developments and final plans concerning the conference.

### WOMANPOWER, INC.

The final and correct date for the statewide conference on the ERA is Saturday, October 18, 1975. The conference is sponsored by Womanpower, Inc., an Education Fund, under a grant provided by the Texas Committee for Humanities and Public Policy and is sub-titled "Social Change and the Law: The Equal Rights Amendment--Its Effects on the Family, Education and the Economy". The purpose of the conference is to bring together members of the legal profession and humanists concerned with recent changes in American society to explore the interplay of legal and social problems and issues as they relate to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment. Letters of invitation and pre-registration materials will be going out the first week of September to organizations across the state, including a number of women's organizations. We hope the members of the TWPC all over the state will be willing to help with publicity and transportation on a local basis. If you would like to help, call or write Terry Mason, Project Coordinator, Capitol Station, Box 13062, Austin, 78711, 512/478-9726. We urge all TWPC members to support the conference with your attendance on October 18 in Austin. The exact location of the conference will be announced at a later date.

### NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The National Women's Political Caucus National Convention was held June 26-29, 1975 at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, Mass. Approximately 30 TWPC members attended as delegates representing the second largest state delegation, in terms of delegate voting strength, at the Convention. Audrey Rowe Colom, a black Republican from Washington, D.C., was elected Chair of NWPC; Jane Macon, TWPC Chair, was elected Recorder; Sissi Loftin, Austin WPC, was elected at large member to the national Steering Committee;

and Fina Gonzales was appointed Chicana Chair. Angie Flores and Chela Estrada were appointed alternate to the Chicana Chair. Many of the Texas delegates held central positions throughout the Convention. Sissi Farenthold is the outgoing National Chair. Liz Carpenter coordinated the fundraiser Friday evening of the Convention at City Hall. Jane Wells of Austin served as Credentials Committee Chair as well as Convention moderator. We would like to congratulate her for such an outstanding job as moderator. Because of Jane's dedication, patience and good humor the Convention ran quite smoothly in spite of the sometimes very controversial business of the convention. Jane Hickie, past TWPC Chair and TWPC Advisory Committee Chair, was Chair of Resolutions. Jane's untiring work, exceptional sense of justice and fair play and commitment to openness throughout the Resolutions committee hearings was noted by several delegations on many occasions during the Convention. Many other delegates served on various committees and worked long, hard hours to insure that we would "take care of business". Among those were: Cathy Bonner, Martha Smiley, Karen Lerner, Judy Brown, Bonnie Lesley, Ona Porter and Angie Flores. The entire delegation is to be congratulated first of all for just being there and secondly, for hanging in there when we needed everyone to be on the floor and in caucus meetings and committee hearings.

The Convention voted in favor of a \$5.00 national dues as well as a unified dues structure, i.e., a person wishing to affiliate with a local caucus must also affiliate with a state and the national Caucuses. This issue will be discussed at the State TWPC Convention. In spite of all the hard work and the fact that we did not get to see much of Boston, it was an exciting convention. Many of us came back to Texas with mixed feelings about the Convention. We adopted crucially important By-Laws which will help solidify the NWPC and lead us in a very good direction and re-committed the Caucus to the all important tasks of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the continued and increased election and representation of women to public office throughout the country through our "WIN WITH WOMEN - 76" Campaign which was quite effective in 1974. The TWPC has already begun laying the foundation for the WIN WITH WOMEN -76 Campaign in Texas. However, there was some concern among some of the delegates over the effectiveness of the Texas delegation as a political force at the Convention. We have heard from some of the other delegates, including Audrey Colom, NWPC Chair, that the Texas delegation was one of the better organized and effective delegations. Yet, some of us felt that we could have been far more effective and influential on the floor. Perhaps the fact that this was the first national convention for many of us as well as the fact that things were happening so fast, made us feel a little "lost" at times. However, judging from our discussions since returning, I am certain that we will be able to draw on this experience and continue to grow in political sophistication so that Texas can increase its efficacy not only at future conventions but in the whole spectrum of political activity.

### CHICANA CAUCUS PUBLISHES BOOKLET

The TWPC Chicana Caucus has published a booklet, "Chicana Educational Conference" which is a compilation of the proceedings of the Chicana Educational Conference that was held on February 23, 1974 in Austin. The purpose of the booklet is to: 1) inform and guide others in planning and organizing a conference; 2) be utilized as supplementary material in the educational system; 3) be utilized in bringing cultural awareness to other ethnic groups; 4) inform society about the interest Chicanas have in decision-making for their own self-determination; and 5) inform our Chicano youth of the interest Chicanas have in alleviating Chicano deprivation in the future. Copies of this very attractive and informative booklet are being sent to all local and special interest caucuses and will be available at the State Convention.

### NEW HOURS FOR TWPC STATE OFFICE

Kim's new office hours are 3-4 Tuesdays and Thursdays and 1:30 - 3:30 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Our address is still 603 W. 13th St., Suite 203, Austin, 78701 and telephone number remains 512/474-1798. We have not moved. The move I spoke of in the last newsletter was not TWPC but my office -- the Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

TWPC STATE CONVENTION

The TWPC State Convention will be held on August 15-17, 1975 at the Sheraton Marina Inn in Corpus Christi. Lt. Governor Mary Ann Krupsak, D- New York will be the keynote speaker. Convention brochures have been sent to all of you and you should have received them by now. If you have not and have any questions concerning the convention, please call the State office.

Room Rates: Single, \$18.00; Double, \$24.00; three (3) to a room, \$28.00; four (4) to a room, \$32.00. Reservation cards were sent out with the brochure and must be returned to the hotel in Corpus Christi no later than August 1, 1975. The hotel cannot guarantee a room after this date. If you think you will be attending the state convention, send in a hotel registration card now. If you decide at a later date that you are not or cannot attend, you can always cancel your reservation.

Registration fee: \$10.00. Lunch by the pool (Saturday), \$3.00. Beach Fiesta - fundraiser, \$5.00. Total convention fees, \$18.00.

Credential Formula: Each local caucus begins with a base of ten (10) delegate votes, i.e., each local caucus gets ten (10) delegate votes automatically. Additionally, each local caucus gets one (1) delegate vote for each additional five (5) paid members up to one hundred (100) members. There is also a bonus of ten (10) delegate votes for each local caucus with one hundred (100) members or major fraction thereof. At large votes are allocated on the same basis as local caucus delegate votes. Dues for all members for credentialing purposes must have been received by Sharon MACHA the state Comptroller of TWPC by July 28, 1975.

Workshops: Women in America an History; Public Relations and the Politician; Campaign Reporting Laws; Legislative Panel; Criminal Justice System and Women; Assertiveness; Women Candidates and Campaign Contributions; Concerns of Older Women; Minority Women in the Women's Movement; Voter Registration and Attending a Political Convention.

Resolutions: All resolutions must be typed single spaced. Deadline for individual and local and special interest caucus resolutions is 12 noon, Saturday, August 16; deadline for convention workshop resolutions is 3 P.M., Saturday, August 16, 1975.

Nominations: People filing for office should be advised that there will be an information "booth" centrally located at the convention center for receipt of filing applications and dissemination of nominations/elections information. A filing deadline of 4:30 P.M., Saturday, August 16 has been established. No applications will be accepted after this time and there will be no nominations from the floor. Thus it behooves those thinking of running for office to get their application on file. There will be a brief orientation session for all candidates and/or all potential candidates at 3:30 P.M., August 16. Persons wishing to file should send the following information to Wes Hiatt, 319 Marquis Lane, San Antonio, TX 78216: 1) candidate's name; 2) home address/telephone; 3) business address/telephone; 4) name of office for which candidacy is declared; 5) statement of membership; 6) political party affiliation; 7) brief biographical sketch; 8) brief resume; 9) purpose for seeking this position; 10) any other information candidate wishes to furnish; and 11) signature, of course.

Deadlines: July 28, 1975 -- Last day for person to join local and TWPC and be credentialed for delegate voting strength purposes.  
August 1, 1975 - Last day for hotel reservations (cards must be received by Sheraton by this date).  
August 11, 1975 Last day to pre-register for convention. Send brochure card to TWPC state office.  
August 16, 1975 Individual, local and special interest caucus resolutions due, 12 noon.  
Convention workshop resolutions due, 3 P.M.  
Nominations filing deadline, 4:30 P.M.

We certainly hope that all of you will be able to attend our fourth annual state convention. I know it is going to be a very worthwhile and informative convention. See y'all in Corpus Christi.

EDITOR'S NOTES

This will be the last newsletter you will be receiving if you have not paid your 1975 dues by July 28, 1975. There are many people, former members, friends and supporters who are receiving the newsletter but have not joined the Caucus this year. We urge all of you to sign up with your local caucus and to do it now. This is also my last newsletter. We will not publish a newsletter in August because of the state convention. I hope that the locals are a little kinder to my successor -- please send her your newsletter regularly. I've really enjoyed editing the newsletter and hope that it has been as worthwhile for you as it has been for me. I know that the newsletter will become more valuable to me in the coming year since I won't be able to be as involved in Caucus work as I have been throughout this year--I'll be attending law school beginning the 25th of Aug. I do feel that the Caucus has done a tremendous job this year and I know it has only been because of the time and energy each of you has been willing to give. THANKS.

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