



TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS



Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 8
Editor: Angie Flores

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Staff: Kim McCormick

WOMEN URGED TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS

In the last newsletter we asked women who were interested in being nominated to serve on state boards and commissions to send their resumes to Lorey Gallop c/o the Dallas WPC. The TWPC considers this a high priority and we cannot over-emphasize its importance. The people who serve on these boards and commissions decide policies for many state agencies whose services have a direct impact on the lives of the people of this state. It is extremely important that knowledgeable and concerned women become active in seeking and securing these appointments. Recently, Mrs. Selma Wells of Houston was nominated by Judge Joe Greenhill, Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, to serve as a member of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. Mrs. Wells' nomination was overwhelmingly approved by the Senate and thus becomes the first black and the first woman to serve on that board. We urge every local chair to disseminate the information which has been sent to you among your membership and in your community. Encourage women to send their resumes and direct any inquiries they may have concerning these boards to Lorey. Do it now! Send them to Lorey Gallop, c/o Dallas Co. WPC, P.O. Box 7566, Dallas, TX 75209 [214/348-2977 (H); 350-4061 (O)].

NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Texas will be leading the second largest delegation to the NWPC National Convention in Boston! The convention will be held at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel in Boston's Prudential Center, June 26-29, 1975. We should remind local chairs or local membership chairs to make every attempt to secure a signed membership card for each member who has joined the NWPC. Copies of these cards must be presented at the national convention in Boston for credentialing purposes. Information concerning the convention is reprinted below once again. If you have any questions concerning registration forms and/or hotel reservation cards, contact Jane Macon or Angie Flores.

Room Rate: Studio, \$24; Single, \$28, \$30, \$32; Double, \$34; Twin, \$36; Double twin (4), \$40; Triple, \$45. Lower cost housing in a near-by college and child care at minimal rates will be available, but reservations must be made in advance. Hotel reservation cards have been sent out and please make your own reservations.

Registration fees: Delegates \$20 -- \$15 for pre-registrants and observers.

Transportation costs: Bus - \$70.73 round trip. Route: Houston to Austin to Dallas to Boston. 38 hours from Dallas. Air - Commercial, \$210.90 round trip. Discount rate available if more than 40 persons. Depart Thurs., June 26, 8 a.m., Dallas/Ft. Worth Regional Airport. Must know by June 1. For more information, contact: Karen Lerner
1206 Castle Hill #4
Austin, TX 78703
[512/472-6114 (H); 475-2005 (O)].

Deadlines: June 6: All credentials challenges in writing to Credentials Chair postmarked no later than this date (20 days to convention). At the same time serve notice to state caucuses that they are under challenge. Jane Wells, Credentials Chair, Rt. 4, Box 314G, Austin, TX 78756, [512/475-0823 (O)].

Issue Workshops: Working With Women; Black Women and the Women's Movement; Spanish Speaking Women Get It Together; Rape; Model Legislation; Abortion; State and National Action; Sexual Preference; State Legislation; ERA; Foreign Policy; Is There A Woman's Position?; Depression Politics; and Concerns of Older Women.

Skills Workshops: Delegate Selection Procedures; Democratic and Republican; Fundraising; For Caucuses and Candidates; Parliamentary Procedure; The Art of Grantsmanship; Win With Women in Municipal Elections; Getting Appointed; Polling Techniques; Women's Legislation and your State Legislature; Press and Publicity; For Caucuses and Candidates.

TWPC STATE CONVENTION

The TWPC State Convention will be held August 15-17, 1975 at the Sheraton Marina Inn in Corpus Christi. The following persons will be chairing the various committees for the convention: By-Laws - Janet Pauls (El Paso) and Karen Lerner (Austin); Workshops - Suzanne Coleman (Houston) and Bonnie Lesley (El Paso); Resolutions - Liz Parker (Austin) and Rhonda Abrams (San Antonio); Convention Booklet - Angie Flores and Friends (Austin and Corpus Christi??); Registration - Margaret Bosse (Dallas), Sharon Macha (Houston) and Patti Magee (Austin); Credentials - Judy Brown (Austin). We still need people to chair the Elections and Logistics committees. Anyone interested in serving on these two committees or any other committee is more than welcome to do so. Contact the State Office. We look forward to a great state convention and hope to see all of you there.

TWPC LOBBY FUND

The following caucuses are to be congratulated for their outstanding contributions to the TWPC Lobby Fund: Jim Wells Co. WPC - \$200.00 and the Education Caucus - \$50.00 (mostly Stephenvillefolk). We appreciate the efforts of all those locals and special interest caucuses who have contributed and urge those of you who have pledged a contribution not to forget us. The legislative session is almost over so let's keep the coin coming in.

ERA SEMINAR UPDATE

Womanpower, Inc. is sponsoring an all day seminar on "What Do Women Really Want: The Implications of Equality" on Saturday, June 21 (note change), in Austin at the Driskill Hotel. Liz Carpenter will be one of the featured speakers and it is hoped that Martha Griffiths will also be a speaker. The seminar is free of charge and child care will be available. Lunch is optional. Womanpower, Inc. informs us that they will be able to provide some assistance with mileage to those persons who will be driving long distances to attend the seminar. We urge everyone to attend this very worthwhile and informative seminar.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Political Action Committee will hold a workshop to draft guidelines for state endorsement procedures. The workshop will be held on Saturday, June 7 (day before Policy Council) beginning at 9 a.m. in the Lt. Governor's Committee Room, State Capitol, Austin, Texas. Ernestine Glossbrenner, Vice-Chair for Political Action, urges all members to attend. If you have any suggestions but will not be able to attend, please forward them to Ernie. Several members of the Austin WPC can put people up for the evening if you come in on Friday or if you are staying over for the Policy Council meeting the next day.

SPECIAL DATES

TWPC Political Action Committee Workshop -- Saturday, June 7, 1975, 9 a.m., Lt. Governor's Committee Room, State Capitol, Austin.

TWPC Policy Council -- Sunday, June 8, 1975, 10 a.m., Lt. Governor's Committee Room, State Capitol, Austin.

WOMANPOWER, INC. Seminar "What Do Women Really Want: The Implications of Equality" -- Saturday, June 21, 1975, Driskill Hotel, Austin.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Repeal Reform Legislation: H.B. 284, as amended, passed the House on April 30, 1975 by a vote of 127-11 (see report to local chairs for record vote and copy of bill) and passed the Senate on May 8th by a vote of 30 to nothing. A copy of the bill as finally passed has been sent to the Governor for his signature. On the record vote in the Senate, Sen. Peyton McKnight was absent due to illness and with this one exception, every Senator in the State of Texas voted for this legislation. The bill as finally passed has been severely amended from its original form. However, the section on the in-camera hearing

regarding prior sexual activity may prove to be of some future value as may the section allowing a conviction to stand on the uncorroborated testimony of the victim. These two sections represent some improvement over the existing penal code. The other sections of the bill represent only minor gains over the existing penal code. We would like to express our appreciation to all of those locals who worked so hard in lobbying for this bill through their letters, telegrams and phone calls to their representatives and senators.

Equal Rights Amendment: H.C.R. 57 (rescission of ratification) is still in a sub-committee composed of Reps. Joe Wyatt, Chairman, Chris Miller, Wilhelmina Delco, Bill Sullivan and Bob Close. A legal opinion on the bill has been prepared by a staff assistant. This sub-committee, if it reports, will report to the Constitutional Revision Committee, chaired by Rep. Ray Hutchison of Dallas.

H.B. 666 (referendum on ERA) was reported favorably out of the State Affairs Committee of the House on May 12th with a recommendation to the House that it do pass. There were several amendments to H.B. 666, one of which sets the date of the referendum back to November 1976. If you would like a copy of this bill as reported out of committee, contact Angie Flores. The vote in State Affairs on H.B. 666 was as follows: FOR -- Uher (Bay City), Chairman; Geiger (Dallas); Boone (Navasota); Ezzell (Snyder); Greene (Harris Co.); Mayes (Granbury); Munson (Denison); Short (Tahoka); and Simpson (Amarillo). AGAINST -- Cartlidge (Henrietta); Earle (Austin); and Wilson (La Grange). PRESENT, NOT VOTING -- Brown (San Antonio). ABSENT -- Hale (Corpus Christi); McDonald (Edinburg); Spurlock (Ft. Worth) and Vale (San Antonio). We ask all members to write your representatives and senators and urge them to vote against H.B. 666 on the floor.

Restrictive Abortion Legislation: Of the thirteen bills which have been enrolled, ten have been shuttled off into committees and we are hoping to keep them bottled up there. Only three have made progress so far and it is possible that we can even stop the progress of these three. S.B. 481 by Sen. Traeger (Seguin) has been amended and reported favorably to the Senate floor. It is slightly more palatable and a copy of S.B. 481 is available from your local chair. Sen. Traeger posted notice of intent to take up this bill on a couple of days but failed to take it up. He has not posted such notice lately and we are hoping that we can convince him to lose interest in pursuing the matter pending what action the House committees may take.

H.B. 337 is the original companion bill to S.B. 481. H.B. 337 has been reported out of a sub-committee in its original form without the amendments that were made in the Senate committee. A copy of this bill is available from your local chair. While the bill has been reported out of sub-committee, it has not been reported yet out of Health and Welfare Committee to the House floor.

H.B. 1782 has been seriously amended in sub-committee and reported back to Health and Welfare Committee. A copy of this bill is available from your local chair. However, this bill has also not been reported from Health and Welfare Committee to the House floor.

Commission on the Status of Women: S.B. 125 is in serious trouble in a House sub-committee composed of Reps. Cartlidge (Henrietta), Mayes (Granbury) and Short (Tahoka). It is reportedly being held hostage as ransom for, of all things, rescission of the ERA. It is going to be extremely difficult at this point in this session to kick this bill up through committees to the House floor and it appears that this bill may well be dead.

If you would like further information on any of the above-mentioned legislation, contact your local chair or Angie Flores.

AROUND THE STATE

The Austin WPC heard a presentation from Clon Carl of the Attorney General's Office and an SDEC member on the Presidential Primary Bill and how it will affect the 1976 State Democratic Convention. On May 20, the AWPC will hold its monthly program meeting. The tentative program will be a presentation on the ERA by Janet Boles. The AWPC reports that another woman, Margret Hofmann, has been elected to the Austin City Council. The Council is now composed of 3 women, 1 black male, 1 chicano, and 2 white males. The new council appears to be quite progressive and AWPC looks forward to an exciting two years, not only for Austin women, but for all of Austin as well. In preparation for assuring the active participation of women in city matters,

the AWPC has spear-headed the formation of the Austin Women's Council. The Council is composed of various women's groups throughout the city and has set out the following as its purposes: 1) to disseminate information about city boards and commissions; 2) to encourage and recruit women to apply for city boards and commissions; and 3) to increase public awareness, particularly among elected officials, of the value of women on boards and commissions. Martha Smiley, AWPC Chair, has been named by the Council to act as Coordinator.

The Bexar Co. WPC has been working actively to increase its membership. A membership party will be held in May in an effort to increase membership and diversity. All members have been requested to submit a list of 5 persons contacted as prospective members. San Antonio has a new mayor -- Mrs. Lila Cockrell. The BCWPC and all of SA is to be congratulated on their election of not only SA's first woman mayor but the first woman mayor of a major Texas city!! Patty Bones is leading the effort within BCWPC to inform members on the educational reform/financing legislation. This item has been especially important during the legislative session and is one which affects us all in one way or another.

The Dallas Co. WPC is to be congratulated for its very fine newsletter. Cynthia Stanaland, Editor, deserves the praise, especially for the extremely comprehensive legislative report. The DCWPC reports the following accomplishments of women in Dallas county government: Jaon Winn received a unanimous vote of approval by DC Commissioners for appointment to DC Court at Law #2. Ms. Winn's impressive background in government and law gained her the support of 14 community organizations, including the DCWPC. When Mrs. Winn begins her tenure May 1, she will become the first black woman judge in the state. Roxanna Manning, chief prosecutor for Dallas City Attorney's Office, was elected to the board of directors of the City Employees Credit Union. Of the three elected to the nine-member board, Ms. Manning received the most votes. Marion Morris was named Young Career Woman of the year by the local BPW organizations in district competition. Ms. Morris, an administrative assistant in the Dallas Mayor and Council Office, will represent Dallas in final competition for the state title.

The El Paso WPC reports that membership continues to increase. The EPWPC has been working on several projects, particularly the reception for Gloria Steinem. Hope it was a huge success. Mary Inocencio, EPWPC member, has been selected LULAC Woman of the Year for the El Paso district. Mary is also active in many community organizations.

KUDOS to the Georgetown WPC for an excellent newsletter too. The newsletter gives excellent coverage on local, state and national events, legislation, and court decisions. Could it be that members like Patty Eason and Karen Stevens want my job next year????

The Wichita Co. WPC held a program meeting in April on consumer credit. The Wichita Falls Board of Aldermen has created a Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women and the WCWPC is working actively to nominate women for these appointments. Two women were appointed to the temporary Water Utility Arbitration Board which hears complaints in re water bills since Jan. 1, 1974. WCWPC reports that Lee Ann Hurd has been hired as "camera woman" by Channel 3 and thus becomes Wichita Falls' first "cameraperson".

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