



TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Newsletter

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March 1976

PLANNING FOR THE TWPC ANNUAL CONVENTION IN DALLAS

The TWPC Convention will be held in Dallas at the Sheraton, August 6-8. Lorey Gallop, Assistant to the Chair, reported to the Policy Council in March that the plans for the convention are underway. All she needs are volunteers to work on the following committees: Rules, By-Laws, Resolutions, Convention Booklet and the Press. The format for the Convention has been tentatively set and it includes:

Friday--Committee meetings and General Session where Martha Smiley and a keynoter will speak
Saturday--All day session on Campaign Techniques followed by a fundraiser in the evening
Sunday--Business session, resolutions, elections and other pertinent business

Dallas Co. WPC, Tarrant Co. WPC and Erath Co. WPC have already made plans to work together on the planning for this convention. Please contact the state office or Lorey Gallop, 9830 Dalecrest, Dallas, Tx., if you are interested in helping. Lorey also welcomes your suggestions on the format for this convention.

SEMINARS ON WOMEN WORKING

As was reported in the February newsletter, seminars on "Working in America: Women's Place," will be held in several cities. These seminars are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau; the Texas Women's Political Caucus; the American Association of University Women; the Business and Professional Women of Texas; and the League of Women Voters. The revised schedule is:

El Paso--March 20th--contact Bonnie Lesley, 360 Crestmont, El Paso, Tx. 79917

Amarillo--March 21st--contact Gwenn Reese, Amarillo College, P.O. Box 447, Amarillo, Tx. 79178

Speaker for the above programs will be: Alexis Herman, National Director, Minority Women Employment Program, Atlanta

South Texas--April 24th--contact Dr. Mary Mattingly, A&I University, Kingsville, Tx. 78363

Ft. Worth--April 25th--contact Judy Braun, 348 Westview Terr, Arlington, Tx. 76013

Speaker for the above programs will be: Rita Johnson, U.S. Delegate to Inter-American National Commission in Observation of International Women's Year

Golden Triangle--May 15th--contact Dortha Dee Vaughan, 3110 Tyler, Port Arthur, Tx. 79640

Speaker for this seminar will be: Carmen Maynie, Director, Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Important legislation affecting the rights of women in America has been introduced in the 94th Congress. The February newsletter reported on Social Security, housing, criminal justice and employment legislation. Other legislation of interest to women compiled by the National Women's Political Caucus includes:

HEALTH CARE

Abortion is still getting a lot of over-reaction as members attempt, with an emphasis on the Constitutional Amendment, to reverse the 1973 Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade. While members support other pro-women's rights legislation, in this area, however, serious attempts are being made to prevent women from controlling their own reproductive processes.

Twenty-nine members wish to return abortion controls back to the states (Scott-Va.-SJR. 91, Burdick (amendment offered in committee and defeated), Waggoner-HJR. 475, Ichord-HJR. 61, Hungate-HJR. 577, O'Brien-HJR. 180, Gaydos-HJR. 187 et al); to ensure Due Process and Equal Protection is afforded an individual from conception on (Mazzoli-HJR. 568, Zablocki-HJR. 248, Eilberg-HJR. 99/147, Delaney-HJR. 41, Barrett-HJR. 575). Also, to generally secure the rights of unborn persons to a "right to life" (Derwinski-HJR. 279, Fithian-HJR. 520, Latta-HJR. 311, Mitchell-HJR. 317, Bauman-HJR. 405, Lent-HJR. 477, Clancey-HJR. 170, McEwen, HJR. 189, Karth-HJR. 197, Snyder-HJR. 246, Saint Germain-HJR. 259, Quie-HJR. 221/144, Oberstar-HJR. 275/337/419/447/467/403, Mazzoli-HJR. 566/567, Blouin-HJR. 451, Eschleman-HJR. 485).

Other legislation covers a total prohibition against abortion (Helms-SJR. 6); limited abortions to save a mother's life (Buckley-SJR. 10, 11); and requires states to conduct studies/surveys determining citizen attitudes towards abortion laws. (Symington-H. R. 220 et al). Also making it a federal crime to carry out research on fetal matter in federally supported facilities (Delaney-H. R. 326) prohibiting the use of HEW funds for abortions (Bartlett-S. 318), creating select committees to study the impact of the Supreme Court decision (Holt-H. R. 32) and withdrawing federal court jurisdiction from state abortion cases. (Waggoner-H. R. 1133, Dingell-H. R. 1515, Crane H. R. 5658).

Those members wishing to continue a woman's control over her body seek to permit abortions/sterilizations under military services personnel family planning programs (Abzug-H. R. 164), and give financial aid for fertility, reproductive and sterility bases were required to reject state anti-abortion restrictions and apply the Supreme Court abortion decision guidelines to all military personnel and their dependents.

Related health issues covered in legislation include: rape prevention programs, family planning legislation and the extending of health care benefits. Many members participated in enacting into law a bill providing for an independently financed National Center for the Prevention and Control of Rape. (P. L. 94-63). Other members support solutions to the problems of nutrition, family planning, children's physical problems, and improved medical care delivery services. A bill continuing special supplemental food programs for women and children became law this year. (P. L. 94-28). In the family planning field, legislation has been introduced to extend coverage to the military (Abzug-HR. 4348/164), generally expand services (DuPont-H. R. 5779/5770), and extend program authority (Carter-H. R. 2133). Also, to include adequate SSA financing of maternity and pre-natal care benefits (Carter-H. R. 4747). To aid children's physical problems, members wish to seek aid for autistic children (Harrington-H. R. 6913/6914/7952 et al, Murphy-H. R. 668), and support general and specific birth defect research (Braithwaite-Burke, H. R. 4744, et al.). One member would allow males to witness the births of any spouses' children. (Corman-H. R. 6694).

Other legislation would provide health care benefits/delivery of services to all citizens (Ullman-H. R. 1), provide for HEW comprehensive child development programs (Abzug-H. R. 155), establish a Department of the Elderly (Abzug-H. R. 176), extend the Health Services Corp Program, helping many poor women (Brock-S. 2174), and extend related health and mental care.

NWPC MEMBERSHIPS

According to the National Women's Political Caucus By-Laws, you can be a member of the caucus in several different ways:

- Dues for special memberships shall be \$20 per year of which \$10 shall be allocated to the NWPC and \$10 to state/local caucuses;
- Dues for sustaining membership shall be \$50 per year of which \$30 shall be allocated to the NWPC and \$20 to the state/local caucuses;
- Dues for contributing memberships shall be \$100 per year of which \$60 shall be allocated to NWPC and \$40 to state/local caucuses;
- Dues for life membership shall be \$500 of which \$300 shall be allocated to NWPC and \$200 to state/local caucuses and which may be paid in installments over a five year period.

In March the TWPC Policy Council voted to split the state/local monies thus:

- Special membership, \$10 state, \$0 local
- Sustaining membership, \$15 state, \$5 local
- Contributing membership, \$40 state, \$10 local
- Life membership, \$150 state, \$50 local

These memberships are to be collected in the same manner as other memberships and submitted on the monthly report form by the local membership chairs.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR 1976!!!!!!THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU ARE NOT A PAID MEMBER FOR 1976!!!!

TEXANS FOR ERA ASK TWPC FOR HELP

It is very likely that another highly organized effort to rescind Texas' ratification of the ERA will be made during the legislative session beginning January, 1977. Four more states are needed before March, 1979 to add the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution. We must continue to have a visible, well-organized, united network functioning to educate the general public and to demonstrate our strength, thereby making rescission impossible. If you would like to help, fill out the following and send to: Texans for ERA, 603 W. 13th, Suite 203, Austin, Tx. 78701

_____ I would like to receive the newsletter and am sending a contribution to help with expenses...
_____ \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$50 _____ other.

_____ I would like to receive the newsletter.

_____ I want to be apart of a statewide phone chain. My phone no. is _____.

_____ I would be willing to contact my legislator about ERA.

_____ I want more information on ERA.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

My Representative Is:

LOCAL CAUCUS NEWS

Harris Co. WPC will hold their annual convention on Saturday, March 27th, at the First Unitarian Church, Fannin and Southmore St. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and at 9:15, the session opens with keynote speaker, Diana Hobby, followed by guest speaker, Penny Brown, recently appointed to the Civil Service Commission in Houston, and Martha E. Smiley, Chairperson of the Texas Women's Political Caucus. A panel discussion and workshops will be held in the morning. The business session including the election of officers for 1976-77 will be held at 2:30 p.m. The convention will adjourn at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. At 7:30 p.m. an "Old Fashioned Political Rally" will be held at the Contemporary Arts Museum. An oak stump will be provided.

Corpus Christi WPC will also hold their convention on the 27th of March. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the County Courthouse, Central Jury Room. There is a \$2 registration fee, and lunch will be available for \$1.50.

The keynote speaker will be Pat Vasquez, Director of the Chicana Rights Project, of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, San Antonio. Her speech will be followed by workshops on: child advocacy, career planning, and assertiveness training. The business meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m., and the convention will adjourn at 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend. For more information contact Kitty Ellis, 882-8544.

When the Erath Co. WPC organized, they hit the ground running. Their projects already include the endorsement of a candidate for the State Senate; invitation of school board candidates to a forum; monitoring of school board meetings; representation on the Health Service Agency; a voter registration drive; and fundraising, of course.

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REMEMBER!!!! This is the last newsletter that you will receive if you have not yet paid your 1976 dues. If you want to continue receiving this information, send your dues immediately.

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