



# TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Volume 4, Number 3

## Newsletter

November, 1975

### TWPC MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

December and January were officially designated as TWPC membership months by the Administrative Committee at its November meeting. Pattie Magee, TWPC Vice-Chair for Membership is currently working with all local membership chairs in developing membership drives. All Caucus members are reminded that 1976 dues are due by January 1st. Please remit your dues through your local caucus. Members at large are requested to send their dues directly to the state office, 603 W. 13th, Suite 203, Austin, Tx. 78701. The fee is still \$10 for the Texas Women's Political Caucus and National Women's Political Caucus membership. Starting in January the national caucus has developed a new membership services "deal." Every paid member gets a quarterly report free (honest folks). A monthly newsletter subscription is available for an additional \$5. Please remit this subscription money at the same time that you pay your dues, through your local or the state caucus.

### HEW GIVES LOW PRIORITY ON NATIONAL ORIGIN AND SEX DISCRIMINATION CASES

On Tuesday, November 11th, Pauline Martinez, TWPC Vice-Chairperson for Political Action, spoke before the Public Forum on Domestic Policy, headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller in Austin. She stated, "The effort by the federal government to provide employment opportunities for Mexican Americans and women has two basic flaws. 1) In the comprehensive employment training act, which was the first special revenue sharing act passed by Congress for the purpose of assisting the unemployed, the underemployed and the disadvantaged, there has not been adequate representation by Mexican Americans or women on the councils that make the decisions of where the monies go. 2) The training that is provided is not adequate. We have an extremely current example in the area of the federal government's failure in the area of civil rights enforcement.

We of the Mexican American community and women read with great concern the news release of October 1, 1975, which stated that as a result of a district court ruling in Washington, D.C (Adams v. Weinberger) that the Office of Civil Rights Director, Peter Holmes, will freeze civil rights investigations on nonracial school discrimination complaints. In other words, a very low priority will be placed on discrimination cases based on national origin and sex. The Dallas Regional Office of Civil Rights has been ordered to follow this directive.

This action, we believe, is in itself discriminatory, and it violates the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If allowed to stand it will surely result in the pitting of minorities against each other, and we strongly object to being placed in this position.

We call upon you to use your power and influence to overturn this determination by calling for immediate Congressional hearings and investigations and by insisting that the Office of Civil Rights enforce Federal law. We insist that the HEW Office of Civil Rights Director either change his directive or that he resign from his position.

We agree with the NAACP that the United States government should finally commit itself to ending discrimination and should staff and fund the enforcement agencies (i.e. HEW, DOL, EEOC) so that Federal law can be implemented and so that legal protection may be available to all. Priorities should be based solely on the dates of filing complaints."

### CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN, PHOENIX, JANUARY 15-18th

The National Women's Education Fund of Washington, D.C. will conduct a Campaign Techniques Institute for women from Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas, January 15-18, 1976. One hundred women will be selected as participants for the 3½ day Institute to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Women from these Southwestern states who are interested in becoming involved in a campaign for public office as candidates, campaign managers, or in other campaign positions are invited to apply.

The curriculum will emphasize the unique aspects of female candidacies, in addition to those techniques basic to every campaign. It will be presented by Southwestern and national experts, and will include intensive workshops on Planning, Targeting, Budgeting, Fund Raising, Voter Contact, Research, Public Relations and Literature, and other aspects of campaigning.

The tuition fee for the Institute is \$35 and meals and lodging will be provided by NWEF. A limited number of travel stipends is available to participants. Further information and application forms are available from the TWPC State Office, 603 W. 13th, Suite 203, Austin, Tx. 78701. The deadline for submitting applications is December 19th.

The National Women's Education Fund was organized to analyze the problems women encounter in seeking full participation at leadership levels of public life, and to develop educational programs to overcome some of these obstacles. For two years, a major program has been the Campaigns Techniques Project, consisting of regional institutes, the development of materials for use by local women's organizations in conducting their own workshops on campaigning, and plans for a series of case studies of women's campaigns in 1976.

### NEWS FROM LOCAL CAUCUSES

The Dallas Co. Caucus recently completed a fundraiser in connection with a visit by Billie Carr. They are also busy planning their annual convention where they will elect officers for 1976. It will be held on December 6th at

Gloria Steinem is returning to Texas. El Paso has written confirmation that she will be there for a fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 14th. EPWPC plans a reception and a dinner. Proceeds will be split between EPWPC and TWPC.

Judge Woodward ruled against the High Plains Women's Political Caucus in their suit to secure single member districts. Caucus members were stunned because they don't believe that he dealt with the facts as they were presented. They plan to appeal the ruling. The HPWPC will host a party on Nov. 22 for Helen Copitka of Houston, a recent appointee to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Charlotte McClure, speaking for the HPWPC presented a statement to Rep. Craig Washington's Committee on Criminal Justice concerning the Board of Pardons and Paroles in Amarillo last week. She called for rational thinking by the committee and for them to avoid looking for simple solutions to the complex problems facing the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Rep. Washington's committee plans to go to Dallas, El Paso, Houston and Austin to hear testimony on this problem. For more information contact Rep. Washington's office in Austin.

COMMENTS ON THE TWPC FROM THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

This article was in the November 1975 issue of Progressive Farmer: "Feminists Go Rural---The Texas Women's Political Caucus plans to concentrate more of its political activity in rural areas to try to shut off opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. The push to get the Texas Legislature to retract ratification of ERA has strong support from lawmakers in conservative, rural districts where feminist activity has been negligible. The women's group vows to work for defeat of legislators who openly oppose the amendment and smoke out those who have been straddling the fence for ERA."

TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S MEETING IN ELPASO

The Texas Federation of Republican Women are meeting in El Paso on November 20th and 21st at the Civic Center. Registration fee is \$35 which includes luncheon for both days, and dinner where several prominent Republicans will address the group. Guests include: John Tower, Anne Armstrong, Bo Callaway, Ray Hutchison, Fred Agnich and Lionel Rawlins. Judy Petty, who ran against Wilbur Mills and received 40% of the vote, will speak on Thursday night. To be a voting delegate to this convention you must be a member of a Republican Women's organization, or plan to start one in your area.

TWPC POLICY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 7th

The Policy Council meeting will be held in Austin beginning at 10 a.m. at the State Capitol, Old Supreme Court Room, 3rd floor. There will be committee meetings held on Political Action, Legislation, Fundraising and Membership in the morning, and the business meeting will be held in the afternoon. It is the hope of the Vice-Chairs who are running these workshops, that local vice-chairs who hold office of political action, legislation, finance and membership responsibilities will attend this meeting and learn what the State Caucus is doing. All local members are urged to attend. This is also an important meeting because Targeting of Legislative Districts will be discussed, and the issues that the TWPC will use to target candidates will be discussed.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY AFFIRMATIVE OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Democratic Party will hold workshops on voter registration, precinct organization, precinct, county and state conventions in Amarillo in the middle of December. This is an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of how to get involved in the political process. For more information, contact the State Office, 512-474-1798.

SUCCESS OF THE WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE CONFERENCE

This conference held last week in Austin brought together women of all political perspectives and was an outstanding opportunity for women from all over Texas to discuss all aspects of women in public life. Throughout the conference people referred to the outstanding work of the TWPC in advancing women in public life. Many TWPC members were participants including: Chairperson Martha Smiley and Assistant to the Chair, Lorey Gallop. Prior to this event, the TWPC had a fundraiser. According to Pat Cain, Vice-Chair for Fundraising, the profit from the fundraiser. Liz Carpenter, who organized the conference, was honored by the TWPC for her contributions to Texas women.

NEWSLETTER FOR BI-CULTURAL RIO GRANDE VALLEY WOMEN

YO TAMBIAN, a monthly newsletter for bi-cultural Rio Grande Valley women to serve as alternate news media, resource and information center, can be ordered from Ida Morris, Editor, 513 Mesquite Dr., Laguna Vista, Tx. 78578. It will cost \$5 per year and the first issue will be January, 1976.

NWPC SUGGESTS WOMEN NOMINEES FOR SUPREME COURT VACANCY

The NWPC has nominated 16 women to fill the seat of retiring Supreme Court Justice William Douglas. The women, both Republicans and Democrats, are: Federal District Court Judges, Shirley Mount Hufstedler, Cornelia Kennedy, Constance Baker Motley; Legal Scholars, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Ellen Peters, Herma Hill Kay, Soia Mentschikoff; and Women in Public Life, Carla Hills, Martha Griffiths, Bella Abzug, Yvonne B. Burke, Margaret Heckler, Elizabeth Holtzman, Barbara Jordan, Patsy Mink, and Pat Schroeder. Members of TWPC can write to President Ford, or send a telegram (95¢ for a public interest telegram), indicating your support of a woman for the Supreme Court position. "President Ford has an unprecedented opportunity to appoint the first woman to the United States Supreme Court, and we are hopeful that he will be judicious in his selection, making skill, intellect, and integrity the only criteria," said Sissy Farenthold, Chairwoman of the NWPC Advisory Board.

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