



TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Volume 4, Number 5

January, 1976

Newsletter

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

In the last six months Caucus officers have travelled all over the State and have found in women everywhere great interest in the Caucus. Their interest is based on a desire to become a part of involving more women in the political process. We have kept lists of names and addresses of people who expressed an interest, and we have prepared this special issue to go to all of these new friends. We want to continue this communication with all of you whom we have met. We can only do that frequently through this newsletter and your membership. Please join us by filling out the enclosed envelope today.

TWPC ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

- The following endorsement procedure was adopted by the TWPC at the State Convention in August, 1975.
- I. Endorsements shall be by office, not by political affiliation.
 - II. Endorsements shall be considered for all statewide races and may be made in each race. (The statewide races this year are: Railroad Commissioner, 3 Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, Presiding Judge and a Justice of the Court of Criminal Appeals)
 - III. Endorsements shall be decided at a special meeting of the Policy Council called to consider only this item of business. All members of TWPC will be eligible to speak at this meeting but only members of the Policy Council may vote.
 - IV. Entire endorsement procedure shall be conducted by TWPC acting alone unless, in the opinion of the Policy Council compelling reasons indicate otherwise.
 - V. Date of endorsement meetings shall be set by the PAC and approved by the Policy Council no later than the December Policy Council. Meeting should be set for late March or early April. Meeting date shall be published in each newsletter after the December Policy Council. (The date set for this meeting is Sunday, March 7th.)
 - VI. Endorsements shall not be limited to candidates who are opposed in the primaries. Endorsements once made shall be binding through the general election unless endorsed candidate is defeated at an earlier stage of the electoral process or unless endorsement is withdrawn for cause (see section on procedure for withdrawal of endorsement).
 - VII. In the event an endorsed candidate is defeated in the primaries, the remaining candidates shall be reconsidered for the purpose of endorsement.
 - VIII. Responsibilities of PAC as regards endorsement process.
 - A. PAC shall compile data on all candidates and distribute this data, along with recommendation if any, to the local caucuses. This information should be in the hands of the local caucus chairs no later than one week prior to the special endorsement meeting.
 - B. PAC shall develop a questionnaire and send it to all candidates within one week after the filing deadline. Return date on questionnaire should be March 1.
 1. Questionnaire shall include but shall not be limited to questions soliciting the following information from candidates:
 - a. position on issues;
 - b. past record on our issues;
 - c. knowledge about our issues;
 - d. platform;
 - e. groups and persons who are supporting;
 - f. major campaign contributors (\$100-500);
 - g. public or private business record; and,
 - h. biographical data.
 2. PAC shall prepare a cover letter to be sent with questionnaire explaining purpose and goals of TWPC.
 3. PAC shall send reminder letter to candidates who have not returned questionnaire 2 weeks prior to March 1.
 - C. PAC shall attempt to train interview teams and these teams shall interview candidates and report to PAC candidate screening committee.
 - D. PAC shall establish procedures for researching information on candidates independently from candidates published materials.
 - E. PAC itself, or a sub-committee thereof, shall screen all data collected on candidates and make its recommendations at least one week prior to endorsement meeting.
 - IX. Endorsements shall require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Policy Council registered at the endorsement meeting. Quorum for endorsement meeting shall be three members of the Policy Council.
 - X. Procedure for withdrawal of endorsement.
 - A. Five members of the PAC may bring motion to withdraw endorsement to PAC. Vice-Chair for PAC must call meeting for this purpose.
 - B. Two-thirds vote of PAC shall move reconsideration to the Policy Council.
 - C. Two-thirds vote of Policy Council shall withdraw endorsement.

Martha

ILLEGAL ALIENS TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED

At the December Policy Council meeting the Legislative Committee of the TWPC recommended that an expert task force be appointed to develop a recommended position for the Caucus on illegal aliens. Martha Smiley will appoint the task force members soon. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the TWPC state office.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCIES

The following State Board of Education members' terms of office expire December 31, 1976. Helen Martin, Co-Chair of the TWPC Education Special Interest Caucus suggests that the TWPC and local caucuses work to keep those members who are sympathetic to the purposes of the TWPC on the board, and that we actively work to replace those who are not. For more information on this matter, contact Helen Martin, 1205 Frey, Stephenville, Tx. 76401.

- District 2--Golden Triangle Caucus--Mrs. Charlsie Bolton, Box 446, Kirbyville, Tx. 75956
- District 4--Dallas Co. WPC and Tarrant Co. WPC--Paul Mathews, Box 1075, Greenville, Tx. 75401
- District 5--Dallas Co. WPC--Don H. Cook, 509 Riggs Circle, Mesquite, Tx. 75149
- District 6--Tarrant Co. WPC--Mrs. Ronald Smith, 3900 Bellaire Dr. So., Ft. Worth, Tx. 76109
- District 15--Valley WPC--Ruben E. Hinojosa, Box 415, Mercedes, Tx. 78570
- District 21--Bexar Co. WPC and San Angelo WPC--Jimmy L. Elrod, 10402 New England Plaza, San Antonio, Tx. 78230
- District 22--Harris Co. WPC--E.W. Huggins, Jr., Box 37, Fulshear, Tx. 77441
- District 24--Tarrant Co. WPC and Dallas Co. WPC -- was unable to obtain name before printing

EL PASO ELECTS 1976 OFFICERS

The new officers of the EPWPC are: Margaret Haddad, President; Linda Perez, 1st V-P; Vicki York, 2nd V-P; Janet Ruesch, Director of Programs; Andrea Crowley and Alicia Ramirez, Secretaries; Irene Hernandez and Mary Inocencio, Political Action; Barbara Cole and Alberta Lundgren, Legislation; and Membership Ruth Kern and Carol Murphy; Gail Stark and Ann Williams, Finance; Rosemary Puca and Kitty Schild, Public Relations; Patricia Presnall and Ann Turner, Communications; and Parliamentarian, Bonnie Lesley.

CAUCUS TAKES POSITION ON HB 2966, THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT OF 1975

Since there has been a strong campaign against this bill based on misquotations and blatant subversive untruths, the Child Care Caucus, after in depth study of this bill, has arrived at the following position, approved by the Administrative Committee meeting January 11th, 1976:

" This is judged an excellent bill for strengthening families and human services programs by the Child Care Caucus of the Texas Women's Political Caucus and other organizations such as the AFL-CIO, Child Welfare League of America, National Education Association, U.S. Catholic Conference, the Baptist and Lutheran Churches of America, the United Auto Workers, the American Academy of Pediatrics and many more. This bill has the sponsorship of almost ONE THIRD of the United States Congress.

Contrary to widely publicized opposition propoganda, this legislation actually offers to parents, and the community, the following:

1. Various types of day care and after school care;
2. In-home, in-school family services;
3. Information and referral services;
4. Prenatal care;
5. Programs for children with special needs;
6. Appropriations for renovating or constructing facilities for programs; and,
7. Parent participation in all phases of programs.

NOTE: Of the Councils which would have control and authority over the programs provided for in this legislation, HALF of the members MUST BE PARENTS. The other members would be appointed by the parents. There will be no Big Brother control.

This is the best and most comprehensive legislation ever proposed to benefit children and their families. We urge everyone to write their U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives in support of the Child and Family Services Act of 1975."

If you have heard or read fear-inspiring information about this act, contact your local library or information service for correct information or write the Child Care Caucus, in care of Dennis Flinn, 618 Carmel, Corpus Christi, Tx. 78411.

TEXAS WOMEN ATTEND CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES INSTITUTE IN PHOENIX

Last weekend, 48 women from Texas participated in a workshop on campaign techniques. Several of the women from Texas led the workshops--Jane Hickie and Ann Richards from Austin, Irma Mireles, Pat Robards, Louise Caddell, and Rosie Castro from San Antonio, Alicia Chacon from El Paso. Many Caucus members were among the participants and it is hoped that these women will be available to share the wealth of information that was learned in Phoenix. If your local caucus is interested in having a workshop on campaign techniques presented in your area, please contact the TWPC state office. We received written materials that you might find useful in running campaigns in your area.

LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A House sub-committee of the State Affairs Committee will hold hearings on the status of women at the State Capitol, Old Supreme Court Room (3rd floor), beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday Jan. 24. Martha Smiley, Chair of the TWPC will testify and she encourages other Caucus members to attend and speak before this sub-committee. For more information, contact the TWPC office, 512-474-1798.

Buy a piece of IWY 1975

(INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR)

TWPC has a limited supply of **IWY JEWELRY**. This is is folks, no more is being produced. Commemorate International Women's Year, buy now!!!!

- EARRINGS \$6.00
- BRACELET \$6.00
- PINS \$4.00

All items are gold plated and have the IWY symbol on them.

- WHISTLES \$10.00

The ACME Thunderer, made in England, complete with a 24" gold chain.... a novelty....

- SWISS WRIST WATCH \$30.00
IWY symbol on face, white band

Send Orders together with check to:
Texas Women's Political Caucus
603 W. 13th, Suite 203
Austin, Tx. 78701

buy now ... supply limited

Texas Women's Political Caucus
603 W. 13th, Suite 203
Austin, Tx. 78701

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 2697

