

HCWPC

Harris County Women's Political Caucus
3602 milam houston 77002 (713)524-5743



Newsletter

January, 1974

LOOKING BACK

Now that the smoke has cleared, we can look back on the November election and chalk up these results. In the city races, two candidates endorsed by the HCWPC won their races. Fred Hofheinz took his oath of office as mayor on Jan. 2, and Leonel Castillo was returned as City Comptroller. Our efforts to pass amendments 2 and 3 were also successful, thus ending the discrimination in homestead laws against unmarried adults. And in another clear-cut victory, the referendum granting the cable TV franchise to Greater Houston Cable TV was defeated. Many of our members worked hard on these and other campaigns and issues. Their efforts made a difference.

LOOKING FORWARD

Before anyone gets settled in that easy chair, make a New Year's resolution to set aside time during the coming months to work for the election of our two candidates for the state legislature, Karey Bresenhan from Dist. 90 and Jo Gerhardt from Dist. 100. You do not need to live in these districts to make a much needed contribution to these campaigns. The success of both of these shoe-string campaigns depends upon volunteers. Karey will soon be needing people for telephone polling. Call Pat Carr at 661-3129 if you can help. Listen for Karey on Joe Coffey's show on KXYZ where she will discuss the proposed constitution.

FUNDRAISING PARTY

The HCWPC promised to raise \$1000 for each of our candidates and will hold a fundraiser on Feb. 15, Susan B. Anthony Day, to replenish our treasury. The Anheuser-Busch hospitality room, 775 Gellhorn, will be the scene of a party honoring Harris County state representatives with a voting record of 90% or better on women's issues. Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby will be the featured speaker. For a \$2.50 admission you will have beer, snacks, and a good time. Plan to be there between 6 and 10 p.m. and bring your friends. Olga Soliz is chairing a short-handed fundraising committee for this event and needs volunteers. Call Olga at 748-7573 (off.) or 524-5005 (home).

THE CUPBOARD IS BARE!

Our treasurer, Olga Soliz, reports that fewer than twenty members have paid their \$12.50 dues for 1974. Since membership is based on either payment or waiver of dues, many of us who think we are members, aren't! The new deadline for collection of dues is Jan. 31 (passed at the TWPC convention in August). Remember that our local caucus is obligated to pay \$10 to state and national for each member, regardless of the amount we receive. We are collecting only \$2.50 for our own treasury in a resolute effort to keep the dues as low as possible. Every feminist who possibly can should make a financial commitment to support the caucus, so that we can concentrate our fundraising efforts for feminist candidates and causes. We need your money now. New members who paid dues between October 7 and December 31 are considered paid for the year, but the rest of us need to send our \$12.50 immediately to the HCWPC at the Women's Center. If \$12.50 is beyond your means right now, waive \$5.00 and pay \$7.50, or if necessary, waive the entire sum with a written statement of reason. Donations welcome.

POLICY COUNCIL MEETING, WED., JAN. 16, 7:30, WOMEN'S CENTER

Cilia Estrada vows that this meeting will begin at 7:30 if she has to gavel an empty room to order. Due to several resignations from the Policy Council, the following positions need to be filled: Co-Chairperson Internal, Secretary, Precinct Organization Delegate, and the two Funding Committee Delegates. Members interested in any of these positions should place their names in nomination for election at this Jan. 16 meeting. The candidacies of Karey Bresenhan and Jo Gerhardt necessitated their resignations from their positions, and Marlene Kilby has left to accept a grant for a two year study of behavioral aspects of chronic amphetamine intoxication at Duke University.

Also at this meeting the Planning Committee for the March convention and the By-Laws Revision Committee will present proposals.

HCWPC MEETING, SUN., JAN. 20, 1:30, HTA, 1415 SOUTHMORE

Judge Ruby Sondock will speak to us at this meeting. Please note that this meeting will be held on Sunday instead of the usual fourth Wednesday.

TWPC POLICY COUNCIL MEETING, SAT., JAN. 26, DALLAS

The Administrative Council will meet at 10 a.m., and the full Policy Council will meet at 1 p.m. Maps will be sent to all representatives.

NOW INVITES YOU TO A FILM AND A PLAY

The film "Gertrude Stein: When This You See, Remember Me," will be shown at the Rice Media Center on Sat., Jan. 12, 8 p.m. Caucus members are invited to a party afterwards at Kay Whyburn's, 2234 Goldsmith. Drinks \$1.00.

NOW is sponsoring two performances of Ibsen's The Doll House on Jan. 18 and Feb. 1. The play is presented by the Southwest Theater Guild at Autry House, 6265 Main. Tickets are \$3.00. Make checks payable to NOW and send to the Women's Center to the attention of Joan Ritter. Call Denita Avery at 473-2218 for reservations.

WILMA SCOTT HEIDE AT U OF H, JAN. 31, 8 PM

Wilma Scott Heide will speak at U of H on Thurs., Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. in Agnes Arnold Hall Auditorium 2. Her appearance is a test of the drawing power of a feminist speaker, and every seat of the auditorium needs to be filled. Plan to be there.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FEB. 11

Tell us what you're doing. Opinions, editorials, letters, announcements--all are needed and welcome at the newsletter, but please observe the deadline. Linda White will be the information coordinator and will take short items on the telephone. Her number is 465-2433, and the easiest time to reach her is before noon. Any items other than announcements should be written and sent to the editor, Pat Carr, 3775 Childress, Houston, 77005.

NOTES FROM THE POLICY COUNCIL

Jane Hickey, our TWPC chairperson, met with the Policy Council at the Nov. meeting and discussed the goals and activities of our state organization. One timely service is a candidate's handbook that will be available to members in time for the upcoming spring elections.

At this meeting the Policy Council passed a resolution to support a special Senate inquiry into discriminatory employment practices at NASA. Ruth Bates Harris was recently fired as Deputy Assistant

Commissioner for Equal Opportunity after preparing a 40 page report detailing NASA's employment practices.

The Policy Council also voted to participate in the Women in Action Coalition, which is made up of 30 member organizations. WIA was established to mobilize woman power to act on social issues and has four standing committees devoted to legal reform, social welfare, health, and education. Barbara Lane-Farley and Peggy Hall will be our representatives.

The HCWPC plans to present an orientation session to follow NOW's five-part series on Monday nights. Harriet Coleman and Rickie Rosenberg will develop the presentation, with a target date of Feb. 11.

ACTION

The HCWPC WILL be submitting names of women to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Don S. Webb, judge of the County Civil Court of Law No. 3. Two municipal judgeships are also open. If you would like to suggest a woman for any of these posts, call Cilia Estrada at 222-8949 (off.) or 682-3573 (home)

JAN. 22 IS THE DATE chosen by the anti-abortion forces for their demonstrations and lobbying efforts. Write your U.S. Senators and Representatives today affirming a woman's right to control her own body. Your letter does count ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ERA RATIFICATION was taken on October 22, 1973 when the AFL-CIO passed a resolution supporting the ERA and urging passage. Approval of only eight more states is needed for ratification

TEXAS'S FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN 99 YEARS convenes Tues., Jan 8, with hearings on proposed changes scheduled for Mon., Jan. 14. If you have any questions or suggestions, call this state-wide toll-free number, 1-800-292-9600. For \$2.50 you can receive "A New Constitution for Texas: Text, Explanation, and Commentary," by writing to the Texas Constitutional Revision Committee, Commodore Perry Building, Suite 300, 802 Brazos St., Austin, 78701.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL FORM TO: MEMBERSHIP, HCWPC, 3602 Milam, Houston 77002. Make checks payable to HCWPC. If you ask for information of indicate an interest in a committee, please include a phone number.

NAME _____ PRECINCT NUMBER _____
ADDRESS & CITY _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____ OFFICE PHONE _____ OCCUPATION _____

___ Enclosed is \$12.50 for full HCWPC membership through all of 1974.

___ Enclosed is \$7.50; I need to waive \$5 of my 1974 state dues at this time.

___ Enclosed is partial payment of \$ _____; I will pay more when I can.

___ I need to waive all dues. Attached statement gives my reason.

___ I am interested in the following committees: ___ funding ___ precinct organization ___ information ___ lobbying and candidate rating ___ equal rights, employment, and compensation ___ sexuality and reproduction ___ membership ___ human priorities. Please have someone contact me.

___ I need an answer to the following questions about the Caucus and its work.

Send HCWPC information to the following names. Please enclose 25¢ or 3 8¢ stamps for each to cover the cost of sending 3 newsletters, if possible.

NAME _____ ADDRESS, ZIP _____
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