

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF DENTON COUNTY
GENERAL MEETING
July 14, 2010**

The July general meeting of Democratic Women of Denton County was held at North Central Texas College, Corinth, Texas. A 6:30 p.m. social time was held before the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Toni Medellin at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

Toni announced that the minutes from April's general meeting were posted on the organization's website and copies were available in the room. May's general meeting was a working session to prepare items to be sold at the state Democratic convention in June. No general meeting was held in June. A motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made and passed.

Treasurer Mabelle Ashbaugh was unable to attend the meeting but sent the Treasurer's report. Finances are as follows: Balance was \$3,255.67 at the end of 2009. Year-to-date expenses equal \$1,862.66. Total new memberships and renewals, as of 07-13-10, were \$1,180.00. Donations amount to \$506.00. Balance in the treasury as of 07-14-10 is \$3,079.01. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as submitted was made and passed.

President Judith Ford reported on the Texas State Democratic Convention held in Corpus Christi from June 24-27. Members at the meeting who were delegates to the state convention were Judith Ford, Toni Medellin, and Michael Watts.

Judith read a statement from Democratic Chairperson Phyllis Wolper regarding the sponsorship and participation of Democratic Women of Denton County in the Independence Day in the Park Event held at Denton's Quakertown Park on July 3. It was a great success and DWDC played a large part in that success. In what is sure to become an annual event, Democrats celebrated the birth of our nation and listened to inspiring speeches by candidates Bill White, Hank Gilbert, Jeff Weems, Neil Durrance, Stephen Stephens, and Bill Barnett.

Unfortunately, the Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social FUNdraiser for the Denton Democratic Club did not see the typical turnout because of rain. Judith asked members to consider making a contribution to the Denton County Democratic Party. Judith acknowledged the renewals arriving from members and thanked members for "signing up" for another year.

Two first timers at the DWDC meeting were recognized. Isabel Ramos and Rhonda Love were welcomed.

Speaker

Vice-President Toni Medellin was the speaker for the evening. Her presentation, *It's a Man's World Unless Women Vote*, was excellent. The facts and information she

shared illustrated to members how important it is to get women voters to the polling places.

Although women have made much progress in the decades since attention was brought to providing women with equal pay for equal work, the discrepancies in earnings and opportunities continue. For every \$1 earned by a white male for identical work, white women will earn \$.80, black women will earn \$.68, and Latinas will earn \$.52.

The political realities for the state of Texas are as follows: Texas is 41st in the nation for high school graduates, 50th in the nation for the number of high school graduates over the age of 25, and 39th in the country for college enrollment. Our state is 7th in the nation for children living in poverty. We are #1 for the number of children who do not have health insurance. For women with health insurance, our state is #50. Texas is 2nd in the nation for teen pregnancies. Our state is #1 for repeat teen pregnancies. We have more teenagers who are pregnant for the second time before age 19 than any other state!

There are 435 members in U.S. House of Representatives. Only 17% of them are female. In the U.S. Senate, of 100 senators, 17 are women (17%). The most recent election of the Iraqi House of Parliament produced 82 females of the 325 members elected. That is 25%!

In the U.S. presidential election of 2008, more women registered and voted than men. Unfortunately, the state of Texas does not have enough women involved in electing our officials. Of the 50 states, Texas is 31st in women's voter registration and 49th in women voting.

Toni shared with the group a three-pronged approach to get women to vote. First is registration, then education, and, finally, mobilization. Registration: our members are encouraged to become deputy voter registrars. Then, talk to acquaintances and friends to find out who is not registered to vote.

Education: each of us needs to educate ourselves on the issues that are most important to women. Be knowledgeable enough to presents facts that will help women see that their votes will make a difference for the issues that are so critical for them. When women were polled about what is important to them, the following list in order of importance was compiled: Better affordable healthcare, the end to the wage gap, affordable birth control, affordable childcare, improved economic security, solutions for the "drop-out" crisis, and fair & independent judiciary.

Mobilization: Communicate with all women with whom we come in contact. Have informal gatherings to discuss how we can make differences with our votes. Encourage everyone to vote early! Carry a list of precinct voting locations. Offer to give people rides to vote.

Toni asked all members to do the “Take Five Pledge”. Find five friends who are not likely to vote. Identify their core issues. Develop a good relationship. Stay in touch with these friends through Election Day. Keep them informed of upcoming elections and voting locations. If they want to vote by mail, offer to help them request the application. Drive them to vote.

New Business

Judith asked for a member volunteer to coordinate refreshments for the general meetings (not events). It would require calling different members to bring light refreshments.

The next event for DWDC will be the Democratic Family Picnic at Little Elm Park on Saturday, August 21st. Members are urged to bring their families and enjoy the lake. DWDC will be sponsoring the Brunch at 11:00 a.m. Participating candidates will be announced.

Announcements

Members were urged to save the date of Wednesday, August 18 to hear Linda Chavez-Thompson speak in Denton County. The location will be announced.

Member Kathie Lagerblad wanted the group to know that Michael Burgess will be speaking about energy on Saturday, July 17. Members are urged to attend and ask thoughtful questions.

Member Rhonda Love shared with the group that a newspaper reporter will be speaking about the gas well drilling at the 10:30 A.M. service at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Denton.

On Friday, September 17th, Donkey Fest will be held at the North Texas Fairgrounds. DWDC will not have a September event/meeting but encourages all our members to participate in Donkey Fest and support the Denton County Democratic Party.

The entire month of October will be devoted to “Get Out the Vote” activities. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Noah, Secretary