



EWTG STAR

PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

DECEMBER 1996

Mary Lou Ralls is EWTG's "Woman of the Year"

Mary Lou Ralls has been selected as the Executive Women in Texas Government "Woman of the Year" for 1996.

Ralls, a bridge design engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, was selected from an outstanding field of nominees. A panel of four judges reviewed each candidate's résumé form for EWTG participation, community involvement, educational accomplishments, and overall leadership/team player contributions.

A member of EWTG since 1990, Ralls has served on several EWTG committees and participated in many fund raising and community service projects. As a professional engineer, she has spearheaded the development of a new and innovative bridge beam, published several technical papers, chaired state, national and international transportation research committees and received many prestigious engineering awards.

An active member of the Gethsemane Lutheran Church and the University Optimist Club, Ralls is involved in community activities ranging from Christian ministries to educational and charitable fundraising endeavors.

"The recipient of the Woman of the Year Award epitomizes the values for which our organization stands," said Rebecca Mears, EWTG president. "She represents the best of who we are as women and as leaders."

Ralls received the award at the annual EWTG conference November 25, 1996, in Austin.

Jake Pickle Delivers Dynamic Speech at November 13 Luncheon

On November 13, former Congressman J.J. (Jake) Pickle spoke to a special joint meeting of the CenTex Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) and the Executive Women in Texas Government (EWTG) at the Austin Woman's Club. The implications of the recent national, state and local elections, Mr. Pickle covered a wide range of issues and dynamics with his usual great insight, depth and humor.

EWTG President Penny Johnson welcomed members and guests of both groups and opened the program. CenTex ASPA President Reuben Leslie

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The December Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon in Austin on Thursday, December 5, at 11:30 a.m., is for members only.

EWTG Calendar of Events

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| December 5 | Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon, Austin, 11:30 a.m., Green Pastures, RSVP 512/371-1263 |
| December 19 | Region 8 Luncheon, San Antonio, Bright Shawl, 12 noon, RSVP Sharon Pinkston 210/691-8170 |
| December 19 | Region 6, Gulf Coast, Houston, Open House & Holiday Event, 5:30 p.m., Information & RSVP Rosa Broussard 713/795-0550 |
| January 9 | Region 1, High Plains Luncheon, 12 noon, Information & RSVP Rebecca Berryhill 806/767-0445 |

Jake Pickle Speaks Out

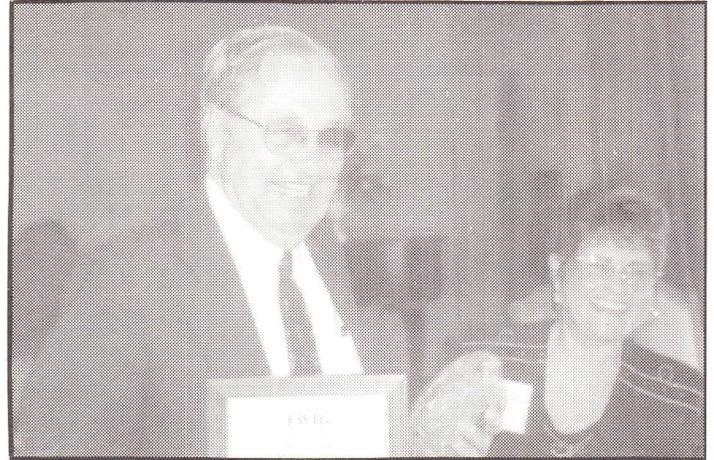
Continued from page 1

thanked and invited EWTG members to learn more about ASPA, particularly its Section on Women in Public Administration. He also urged ASPA and EWTG members to help plan Public Service Recognition Week, which will be May 7-12, 1997 (see page 5). CenTex ASPA Vice President and program chair Patsy Henry introduced Mr. Pickle, her long time friend and former employer.

Mr. Pickle mainly focused on the Presidential election, and admitted a bias on his part. He said there is significance in President Clinton's winning of 57 % of women's votes, probably reflecting greater concern for education, youth, children, and the future. He said that turnout, the lowest since the early 20th Century, indicates that the population is turned off but not angry, and maybe even contented and reluctant to change from the current split government, with no party dominant. He said Clinton is a good president and administrator, he seems to have been accepted and forgiven, he and his wife are good leaders, he seems to be "a 1-man think tank," and "you believe what he says because he looks like he believes it."

He said Dole's attack, at his party's urging, on Clinton's ethics and character hurt Dole more than Clinton. He said the GOP's main point was "you can't trust him," but Clinton's record shows otherwise, and having this as a central argument not only didn't work, but also disillusioned many of the young and the whole body politic. He also said Dole, "best Senator since LBJ," did many good things as a Senator, but started 18 percentage points behind. Although he got some momentum after the convention, he never could control his own party and therefore was beaten by Clinton's astute positions on abortion, welfare reform and Medicare.

Mr. Pickle also noted the GOP gains in the Texas Senate and the dynamics of Lt. Governor Bob Bullock's leadership, Newt Gingrich's problem with leading re-elected House freshmen, and the new phenomenon in Texas (especially rural and suburban areas) and other southern states of the GOP being seen as the party for respectable people.



Jake Pickle receives an Honorary EWTG membership from EWTG's President-Elect, Penny Johnson after speaking at the November Luncheon in Austin.

For the future, Mr. Pickle predicted that:

- split government, reflecting a bad mood of the American people toward government, will likely continue,
- campaign finance reform, much needed, may actually happen,
- a "shoot-out" on tax reform,
- more rhetoric about killing all vestiges of the Great Society, but continued popular support for Head Start, Medicare, Medicaid, and Clean Air and Water,
- the mood is against new programs and for cleaning up existing ones, and
- we need to get the young to participate in politics and elections.

Mr. Pickle concluded with a comment on our capacity as administrators and as people to solve public problems: "We can do it!"

Thanks to Mr. Pickle and all participants who made this a very enjoyable and interesting luncheon: a great speaker, beautiful setting, fine food, and networking with other professionals from two dynamic organizations. Let's do this again.

*By Reuben Leslie, Jr.
Management Analyst, Regional Operations
Texas Department of Human Services
and President, CenTex American Society for Public Administrators*

Conference Appreciation

Managing a Changing Government: A How-To Guide for the Future Tenth Annual Conference

Conference Coordination Committee:

Joelyn Weeks-Program Chair
Avis O'Reilly-Registration Chair
Donna Rolland-Facilities Chair
Pat Byrum-Exhibitors/Silent Auction Chair
Mary Goehring-Evaluation Chair

Board Liaison:

C. Eloise Lundgren-Public Relations
Glenna Hasting-Budget
Carolyn Bible, Executive Director

Over the last eleven months, I have been privileged to work with the Conference Coordination Committee, Board Liaisons, the Executive Director, each of the subcommittees, and many, many volunteers. The Tenth Annual Conference was only possible because so many of you were willing to make a sacrifice to make the annual conference special for all of us! By giving, we grow. EWTG unites us. We are able to reach across the miles and share with friends, some we may only see once a year at this conference.

Each one of you should take pride in the fact that you made this conference happen. I want to thank each one of you for your stellar performance.

Judith Rhedin, Vice-President
1996 Conference Committee Chair

It's Teddy Bear Time

Now is the time for all good EWTG members to bring a teddy bear to the Austin Holiday Luncheon!

For the past several years, EWTG has donated teddy bears during the holidays to the Travis County Victim Services. They provide bears to trained volunteers crisis teams that assist at crime scenes in Travis County. The bears are given to comfort the children who are involved in the situation. They do not have a big fund raiser and are most appreciative of our participation. Brochures that describe their services are available from Travis County Victim Services. Donna Geissen, Director, or Bonnie Neuendorff may be reached at 512/473-9709.

Adopt-A-Nursing Home

There is a tremendous need for greater community involvement in nursing homes in Texas. Half of the 100,000 people in nursing homes have no family or surviving spouse. Sixty percent have no regular visitors. Your group or business can greatly enrich their lives by visiting or providing them other activities through the Adopt-a-Nursing Home program.

For information, contact your neighborhood nursing home or the Texas Department of Human Services toll-free from anywhere in Texas at 1-800-899-8595, or in Austin, (512) 438-4037, or check out the world wide web home page at <http://www.dhs.state.tx.us/regops/adopt/anh.htm>.

Do you have changes in your directory listings?

The new directory will be printed in February.

Please call the EWTG Office at 512/371-1263 and report any changes to your listing by February 1.

Committees Forming for 1997

I'll volunteer for a
standing committee
please circle choice(s)

I'll volunteer for
a conference
committee
please circle choice(s)

I'll volunteer for
an ad hoc committee
please circle choice(s)

Standing Committees

Program	Newsletter
Legislative Issues	Public Relations
Membership	
Mentorship	

Conference Committees

Program	Facilities
Evaluation	Publicity
Registration	Budget
Exhibitors/Silent Auction	

Ad Hoc Committees

Special Events, Receptions	Community Service
other Social Activities	

Name	Agency
Address	
Work Phone	Home Phone

Complete and mail to:

EWTG, 3500 Jefferson, Suite 210A, Austin, TX 78731

New Members

Sharon Barnes	Texas A&M University	409/862-7709	409/776-2356
Mary Grace O. Bogwu	Texas Southern University	713/313-7299	
Vickie Burt	Texas A&M University System	409/845-9600	409/693-6114
Charli Colbert	UT Health Science Center	210/567-2200	
Anna K. Dunn	Texas Workers' Compensation Com.	512/440-3805	512/894-0904
Eva N. Flenniken	Texas Department of Transportation	903/737-9210	903/784-7553
Greta Franklin-Loney	General Land Office	972/527-2408	972/517-3596
Lynda Gilcrease	Department of Human Services	210/619-8089	210/491-0875
Anna K. Hayes	Department of Transportation	512/305-8983	512/467-2299
Karen Mott	IBM Corporation	512/473-8030	
Carolyn D. Pitts	Texas Department of Transportation	903/737-9375	903/450-1989
Lydia Saldana	Parks and Wildlife	512/389-4557	512/301-2247
Jane Velasquez	General Land Office	210/616-0674	
Suzan Younger	UT Southwestern Medical Center-Dallas	214/648-3572	214/381-5156

Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is pleased to announce summer internship opportunities available through the 1997 Mickey Leland Environmental Internship Program. Internships are available throughout the state of Texas.

The program was established in 1992 in honor of the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland. As a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, Congressman Leland emphasized the importance of heightened awareness and involvement of minorities in public health and environmental issues.

Since its inception, more than 300 students of environmental, engineering, and science related disciplines have participated in the statewide program.

Ready Texans

State employees who are (or are training to become) American Red Cross certified disaster volunteers are eligible, with supervisory approval, for up to 10 days a year of disaster leave without losing pay, vacation, personal or sick leave, or earned

More specifically, students majoring in chemical engineering, biology, chemistry, geology, public health, and public administration have attained valuable work experience.

Public and private entities that are representative of regulatory, general manufacturing, electronics, chemical, refining, and utility industries have invested in this program through the provision of paid intern positions and the knowledge and expertise of their employees who serve as mentors.

The deadline for priority applications is December 13, 1996. If you know a student who is motivated and interested in a challenging summer internship experience, please call Connie S. Allen, 512/239-0162, or, Debra Cyphers, 512/239-0159 for application packages.

Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-12, 1997

Do you think Police, Firefighters, and other public servants deserve more respect? What can you do about it? Since 1986, federal government agencies, national professional and civic organizations, and an increasing number of state and local governments and communities have celebrated Public Service Recognition Week during the first full week of May 6. The celebrations are supported by free materials from the Public Employees Roundtable (PER), a non-partisan, non-profit coalition of 38 management and professional organizations representing more than one million public employees and retirees. PER's Associate Corporate Forum includes 30 corporations. The

overtime. Disaster volunteers, known as "Ready Texans," help the Red Cross with relief services such as damage assessment, casework, mass care, and health care. For more information, call your local American Red Cross chapter or 1-800-928-4271.

mission is to inform Americans about the quality of people in government and the value of services they provide, to enhance excellence and esprit de corps in government, and to encourage interest in public service careers. PER offers free posters, guidebooks, classroom workbooks, and materials for planning and networking. For more information, contact Public Employees Roundtable, P.O. Box 14270, Washington, D.C. 20044-4270, (202) 927-5000, or (202) 927-5001 FAX, or the new World Wide Web site at <http://adams.patriot.net/~permail/>. Start planning now. For information on how groups are planning to observe Public Service Recognition Week in Austin next spring, contact Reuben Leslie, Jr., President of the Central Texas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, at (512) 837-6181 or (512) 438-4175.

REGION NEWS



The San Antonio officers pose with EWTG Board members at their July luncheon. Left to right: Pat Edwards, Celeste Carpenter, Molly Hartshorn, Sharon Pinkston, Cathy Oatman, Carolyn Bible, Christina Guerra, Frankie Watson, and Judith Rhedin.



Members of the Board of Directors joined Region 6 - Gulf Coast for their July Meeting.



Board members Karen Davis and Frankie Watson (center) visited the Lubbock group for their July Meeting.

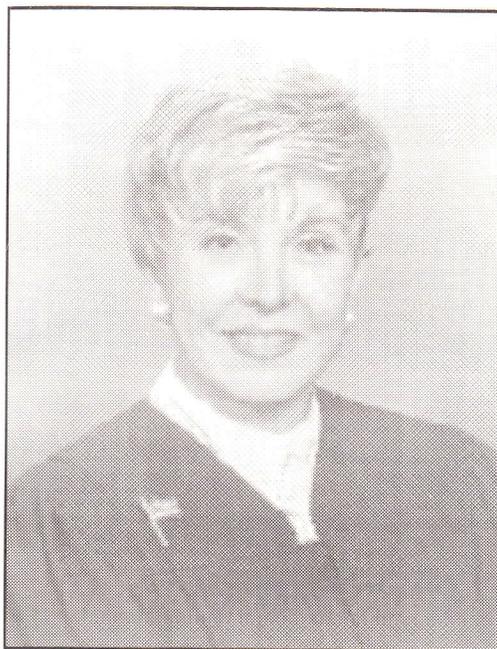
REGION NEWS

Region 08 - San Antonio

*Molly Hartshorn
Public Relations
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio*

"Putting Your Best Foot Forward," the first seminar planned and executed within Region 08, was an unqualified success. The 80 participants almost doubled the original projection of 45 attendees. The average overall conference rating of sixty-six of those participants was 4.70 on a 5.0 scale. Seven organizations were represented.

Jan and Larry Waddy of BIZCOM Consultants focused the workshop on communication skills, providing valuable tips for developing a winning personal style. County Judge Shay Gebhardt, the luncheon speaker, spoke of challenges she faced due to a humble beginning, personal hardships, and biased attitudes toward women.



*The Honorable Shay Gebhardt, Judge,
County Court at Law #3.*

Appreciation and thanks are extended to the program planning committee, and especially to Sharon Pinkston and Celeste Carpenter. Without their attention to detail, dedication, and amazing flexibility the conference would not have been the success it was.

The final meeting of the year will be a Christmas luncheon at the Bright Shawl on Thursday, December 19. Reservations can be made by calling Sharon Pinkston by December 13 at (210) 619-8170. Unwrapped childrens' gifts and games and ladies' toiletries may be brought to the luncheon and will be delivered to the Battered Womens Shelter.

*Share your Region News with EWTG Members. Send to EWTG Star, c/o Suzi Miller
Suite 210A, 3500 Jefferson, Austin, Texas 78731
(512) 371-1263 • FAX (512) 371-9380*

President
Rebecca Mears
512/343-5194

President-Elect
Penny Johnson
512/858-5620

Vice-President
Judith Rhedin
512/475-2117

Treasurer
Collett O'Neill Foyt
512/424-4711

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Glenna Rhea Hastings
512/463-7756

Director of Programs
Susan Howard
512/471-6524

Director of Membership
Karen Davis
512/505-5534

**Director of
Communications**
Suzi Taylor Miller
512/266-2962

Director of Public Relations
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713/977-2613

Executive Director
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Suite 210A, 3500 Jefferson
Austin, Texas 78731
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Job Bank: 512/371-9380

EWTG dedicates itself to developing and encouraging women in Texas state government and higher education by offering educational, interactive and professional opportunities. The organization is committed to contributing positively to Texas government and to maintaining the highest standards of ethics and social responsibility. ★

Mark Your 1997 Calendars for the Austin Meetings

The monthly luncheons for 1997 will continue to be held at the Austin Woman's Club located at 8th and San Antonio. Meetings begin at noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October. There is plenty of parking adjacent to the building. The cost of the luncheon is \$12. Mark your calendars now for 1997.

1997 EWTG Meetings

Austin Woman's Club
Wednesdays, Noon

January 22	June 25
February 26	July 23
March 26	August 27
April 23	September 24
May 28	October 22

★ ★ Stars Over Texas ★ ★

Penny Johnson joined Bounty Tours and Travel as a consultant. Her new work phone number is 512/858-5620.

Let us hear from you!

Send items for publication in the EWTG Star to:
Suzi Miller and Emily Braswell
c/o Suite 210A
3500 Jefferson
Austin, Texas 78731
Phone: 512/266-2962
FAX: 512/371-9380

The editor welcomes items of personal news, information about upcoming meetings and events, and articles on issues of interest to EWTG members. Deadline for material for the January issue is December 18, 1996.

EWTGSTAR

Executive Women in Texas Government
Suite 210A, 3500 Jefferson
Austin, Texas 78731

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