



EWTG STAR

PUBLISHED BY EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

MARCH 1997

Legislative Issues Range from Pay Raises to Child Care

Denise Pittard is Chair of the EWTG Legislative Issues Committee and is in the Legislative Affairs Office of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The seventy-fifth regular session of the Texas Legislature convened in January and is well on its way to making changes in areas that range from pay schedules to child care to the expansion of Memorial Stadium. The issues listed below represent a sampling of the bills that have been filed in areas of interest to EWTG. The filing deadline for bills to be considered in the 75th Legislative Session is March 14.

Pay Raise—It won't be known until May whether state employees will receive a pay increase. The House Appropriation Subcommittee on Salary & Benefit Comparison studied the issue during the 74th Interim. Although the Subcommittee made no formal recommendations on this issue, the State Auditor's office has recommended a 3.5% increase for all state employees. State employees have not received a pay increase since 1992.

Retirement—Several retirement bills have been filed. **HB 633** by Maxey would allow an individual to add five years to their age for retirement purposes. The individual can be no more than five years younger than the minimum age required for eligibility. This would allow: 1) a person with five years experience to retire at 55, rather than 60; 2) a person with 25 years experience to retire at 50, rather than 55; 3) a person with 30 years experience to retire at 45, rather than 50. A similar proposal failed last session in the 74th Regular Session.

Another retirement bill for employees of the

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EWTG Launches Annual Spring Event: An Evening of Artful Networking April 3, 1997

Toya Cirica Haley is Chair of the EWTG Special Events Committee, as well as a Staff Attorney for the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin.

The Special Events Committee would like to invite all EWTG members to a new annual event: *An Evening of Artful Networking*. Our honored guests will be the women who are heading our state agencies and leading us into the 21st century. View the galleries of the Austin Museum of Art, network with other EWTG members and enjoy musical entertainment and refreshments.

The Spring Reception will be held at the Austin Museum of Art Downtown at 823 Congress on Thursday, April 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. In appreciation of our members, there is no cost for attendance, but space is limited. Please call early to make a reservation with Carolyn Bible at 512/371-1263.

EWTG Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 13 | Region 1, High Plains Luncheon, 12 noon, Lubbock Club. Information & RSVP, Shelby Peoples, 806/745-4411.
Austin Mini-course, Rozenna Sanders, Wardrobe Consultant and Professional Shopper, 12 noon, Austin State Hospital Bldg. 582. Information & RSVP, Carolyn Bible, 512/371-1263. |
| March 20 | Region 8, San Antonio Bimonthly Meeting, 11:45 a.m., Bright Shawl, 819 Augusta. Information & RSVP, Pat Ramirez, 210/342-3191. |
| March 26 | Region 3, Metroplex Monthly Meeting, 6:00 p.m., UT Southwestern Faculty Club, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd. Information & RSVP, Claudia Stravato 214/648-9201.
Austin Region Luncheon, Sheriff Margo Frasier, Travis County, 11:45 a.m. Austin Woman's Club, 708 San Antonio. Information & RSVP, Carolyn Bible, 512/371-1263. |

1997 Officers

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Carolyn Bible
3500 Jefferson, Ste. 210A
Austin, Texas 78731
512/371-1263

Fax & 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.★

Safety is as close as . . . the grocery store?

Mary Goehring is Chair of the Conference Evaluation Committee, a black belt in karate, an internal auditor for the Texas Department of Transportation, and an EWTG Star feature editor.

Life, in and of itself, is a risk. However, activities add to that risk in varying degrees depending on the nature of the activity. In everything we do, personal safety should be a primary consideration. Knowing how to defend yourself is important, but knowing, ahead of time, where safety is, can make the difference in a threatening situation.

We all think of safety when we see law enforcement officers; however, how many of us think of our local 24-hour grocery or convenience store as a place of refuge? These places can provide an element of safety when a person is being threatened. Additionally, large apartment complexes often have a security patrols on-site, and local hospitals and emergency rooms are staffed 24 hours-a-day. Being in well-lit, well-populated, public places is a safety measure against any type of criminal activity. Know where you are going and be AWARE of what is around you. Remember, when in trouble, RUN, don't walk, to your local all-night grocer. They may have just what you need!

Recycling Beautifully!

Rebecca Davio is in charge of the Texas Department of Transportation's recycling program and an EWTG Star feature editor.

Why bother? You may wonder why anyone would even consider recycling an empty bottle that weighed an ounce when full. Companies like Aveda, Mary Kay, The Body Shop, and Estee Lauder's Origins have made a total commitment to recycling—going beyond the facade of green marketing—developing programs so their customers have a painless way to do positive things for the environment.

Mary Kay, a Texas-based cosmetic's company, is the largest direct seller of skin care products in the United States. They print package inserts, order forms, letterhead, business cards, and internal newsletters on recycled papers. Some items such as eye shadow, blush, pressed powders, and cream foundations are available in refillable containers to eliminate excess waste. Gold stamps on some of their product containers were replaced because the gold inhibited recycling. In addition, more than \$60,000 has been donated to environmental charities from the sale of employee-collected recyclables.

Estee Lauder—with its Origins line—was the first major retail cosmetic company to bring out a line of recycled containers devoid of glitzy excess packaging. They target younger, environmentally conscious consumers with this less expensive cosmetic line. The Origins line encourages customers to bring their empty containers back to their cosmetic counters. Recycling containers via their cosmetic counters also gives these companies an opportunity to sell additional products—smart marketing! In addition to

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Legislative Issues

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Employees Retirement System would provide a temporary retirement incentive to those employees who are eligible for retirement after August 31, 1997, but before September 1, 1999. **HB 934** by Maxey would allow those individuals retiring to have their retirement computed using the 2.25% multiplier rather than the 2.0% multiplier, resulting in a higher monthly retirement annuity. **HB 1076** by Telford would provide for post retirement increases in benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. Increases would vary depending on the date of retirement.

Health Care

HB 732 by Dukes would require doctors to provide specified information about hysterectomies and obtain a woman's oral and written consent. Physicians who fail to comply could face disciplinary action. The intent of the legislation is to provide women with better information about hysterectomies and various alternatives to the procedure.

HB 831 by Gray would provide a health benefit plan that provides benefits for surgical procedures to include coverage of inpatient care in a health care facility for a minimum of 48 hours for a woman enrolled in the plan following the performance of the mastectomy.

SB 153 by Barrientos would provide that a health benefit plan that provides maternity benefits, including benefits for childbirth, must include coverage for inpatient care for a mother and her newborn child in a health care facility for a minimum of 48 hours following a vaginal delivery and 96 hours following a delivery by Caesarean section.

Divorce

Rep. Wohlgemuth has filed **HB 323** which would restrict the availability of no-fault divorce. Current law allows a divorce with one party's consent and a 60-day waiting period with no reason given. The proposed bill would require both parties' consent and, if they are not the parents of children younger than 18, a one-year waiting period. If the couple has children or only one party consents, a divorce could only be granted upon a

finding of fault (i.e., cruelty, adultery, felony conviction, abandonment, living apart or confinement to a mental hospital).

Abortion

Several bills have been filed which would provide for parental consent or notification before an abortion could be performed on a minor. Some of the bills which address this issue are **HB 757** by Moffat, **HB 268** by Hill, **SB 411** by Nelson, **HB 1274** by Smithee, **HB 276** by Marchant, and **SB 86** by Shapiro.

Welfare

HB 1439 by Hilderbran would expand the list of items that recipients can buy with their monthly welfare grant. The proposal would also make it impossible for recipients to get cash through the Lone Star Card, the state's electronic benefits transfer card. The intent of the bill is to prohibit the use of welfare dollars to buy cigarettes or alcohol.

Child Care

Senator Haywood has filed **SB 533** which would give tax breaks to businesses that establish and maintain child-care facilities or hire someone to provide such services. Businesses could receive a tax credit of up to 30 percent or \$30,000 of the money they spend on providing care for employees' children.

Miscellaneous

A bill has been filed which would exempt a planned expansion of Royal-Memorial Stadium from a state law protecting views of the Capitol. **SB 438** by Armbrister has already passed the Senate State Affairs Committee unanimously. Without approval of this bill, the University of Texas's \$70-million stadium expansion would be blocked by a 1983 state law that protects Capitol views.



Women Leading Technology: Programs on Contemporary Issues

The Women Leading Technology Series centers around the importance of technology to education and to career/jobs for women in the 21st century.

March 20--*Literacy in the Age of Technology*, Ellen Wartella, Ph.D., Dean, and Walter Cronkite Regents Chair in Communication, The University of Texas at Austin. 5:30 p.m. Welch Hall Convocation Center, Rm. 2.122.

March 21--*Jobs and Women: Does Technology Matter?* Members of technology-intensive companies and interest groups will talk about jobs and careers.

The focus is on preparing women for computer-related opportunities. 10:00 a.m.-noon Knopf Room, FAC 4th Floor.

The Future of Technology: Opportunities for Women. Meg Wilson, M.P.A., Lecturer in the Masters of Science, Science and Technology Commercialization Program, IC². We are increasingly a technology-driven society, and these tools affect every corner of life. This exciting seminar will explore ways that technologies can improve women's careers. 1:00-3:00 p.m. EDS Financial Trading and Technology Center, GSB 3.120.

Tank Girl. Free movie screening of *Tank Girl*, a film exploring the ways a woman can adapt hard-edged technology to her own purposes and for reshaping her world. After-film panel discussion with Janet Staiger, Ph.D., Radio-TV-Film, Sandy Stone, Ph.D., Radio-TV-Film, and Doug Kellner, Ph.D., Philosophy. Sharon Strover, Ph. D., Radio-TV-Film, will moderate. 7:00-10:00 p.m. FAC 21. All events are free and open to the public. For more information please contact Women's Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, 512/471-5765; 512/475-8146 fax; or, carolb@mail.utexas.edu.

Walk For Safe Families: Sunday, April 13, 1997

The Walk for Safe Families is a major fund-raiser for the Center as well as a celebration of safe families. This year, the Center will share Walk proceeds with the Williamson County Crisis Center, Hays Caldwell Women's Center, Bastrop/Lee/Fayette County Family Crisis Center; Phoebe's Home in Bryan, and Saheli, a nonprofit group helping battered Asian women in the Central Texas area. Come show your support for ending family violence by collecting donations and walking with us. For information and materials call Louise Holeman at 512/385-5181, fax 512/385-0662, or write P.O. Box 19454, Austin, TX 78760.

MEETING NOTICE

Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP) is a nonprofit professional, national organization created to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of city, county, state, federal and other government meetings. The Texas Lone Star Capital chapter meets in Austin on the second Thursday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m. These meetings provide educational programs as well as networking opportunities between government employees who are involved in the planning of meetings and those who supply service to them.

On March 13, 1997, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., SGMP will present its educational program, "Personal Development" at the Austin River Place Country Club, 4207 River Place Blvd., located off FM 2222. The meeting is open to city, county, state, federal and other government employees who are involved in the planning of meetings. For more information or to RSVP, contact Harriet Franson, Vice President/Membership Director, at 512/458-7455.



Women's Legislative Days

EWTG enthusiastically joined with many other organizations to cosponsor the eighth Women's Legislative Days held in Austin's LBJ Auditorium on February 17-18, 1997.

Executive Director Carolyn Bible and Board President Penny Johnson attended the opening ceremonies where Mary Beth Rogers dedicated the conference to Barbara Jordan citing her legislative accomplishments and strong moral code of behavior. Ms. Rogers commended Ms. Jordan's integrity during her terms as a Texas senator and U.S. congresswoman and praised her use of compromise to turn her principles into policy.

Keynote speaker Judith Lichtman, Women's Legal Defense Fund President, updated the group on current national legislative issues including Family Medical Leave Act expansion, fair pay initiatives and compensatory/flextime proposals.

The Monday conference agenda also included the panel discussion: Religious Political Extremists and Their Effect on Women's Issues. The panel featured Cecile Richards, Bunnie Reidel, Reverend Joe Parker, and Peggy Romberg. The Austin-based Cow Pattys entertained the group prior to a legislative reception honoring former legislators Peggy Rosson, Nancy McDonald and Karyn Jones Conley.

On Tuesday, the participants attended three of twenty-six scheduled workshops. EWTG members Christine Hernandez, Teri Flack and Irma Rangel participated as workshop leaders. The conference concluded with visits to legislators at the Texas Capitol.

Note: In the February EWTG Star, the Women's Information Network, a woman's professional group associated with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), was incorrectly identified as a sponsor of Women's Legislative Days. The correct sponsor was Women's Issues Network which has no affiliation with TxDOT.

Take Our Daughters to Work

This coming April, on the fourth Thursday of the month, millions of girls across America will participate in Take Our Daughters to Work Day with parents, teachers and employers. The Ms. Foundation for Women designed this national event to focus on girls' ideas, needs and dreams-and to help ensure that girls remain confident, strong and in school throughout their teen years.

Participation is easy. The first thing you need to do is ask the girl in your life--your daughter, granddaughter, niece, neighbor or friend--if she wants to go to work with you. Find out if she wants to see where you work, interview your co-workers, learn about the different jobs women do or try her hand at something new.

Let your co-workers, employees and boss know you plan to bring a girl to work, and see if your workplace will sponsor a group of girls who otherwise might not be able to participate--girls from an area school, housing complex, homeless shelter, Girl Scout troop, YWCA, Girl's Inc., or Big Sisters group. Recommend that your workplace send for the *Organizer's Kit* which explains how to coordinate the day with the media, schools, and others in your local community.

For more information, contact Ms. Foundation for Women, 120 Wall Street, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10005, 1-800-676-7780. nto car seat covers.

Recycling . . .

Continued from page 2

offering recyclable cosmetic containers, the old uniforms of sales representatives are recycled into car seat covers.

Cosmetic and personal care companies, such as these, have begun demonstrating their companies' environmental consciousness while tapping into the growing number of consumers who want to buy socially-responsible products.

★ ★ Stars Over Texas ★ ★

Sam Manning has a new position with the Department of Human Services in Houston as Director of Programs II, Long Term Care-Regulatory Division. Her new phone number is 713/767-2295.

Lora Williams has left state government to become President/Executive Director of Consumers Alliance of the Southeast. Her new phone number is 512/892-8997.

Christi Mallette is now in the Department of Juvenile Corrections at the Texas Youth Commission as Parole Administrator.

Susan Smith-Cabellero has a new position with the Texas Workforce Commission as Board Outreach Representative.

Beth Earl is now Information Services Assistant for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at Texas A&M University.

Britt Crockett has changed her name to Britt Brookshire and is Director of Programs at the Texas Workforce Commission.

Dale Beebe-Farrow has a new position as Technical Specialist at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

New Members

Timi M. Dutchuk	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission	512/239-6144
Cathie Penn	Secretary of State	512/463-5650
Cindy Rainbow	Department of Human Services	713/767-2147
Kim Sutton	Secretary of State	512/463-9873
New Phone Number		
Lauri Sheridan	Central & South West Corporation	512/481-4540

COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Positions

Committee Positions remain open on two of the Conference Committees--the Exhibitors/Silent Auction Committee, co-chaired by Cathi Whelan and Lori Endsley, and the Program Committee chaired by Emily Braswell. The Exhibitors/Silent Auction Committee is responsible for putting together the group of exhibitors and for soliciting the items for the silent auction. This committee will provide you with the opportunity to interact with the public and private sector participants who make this annual event so memorable. The Program Committee is responsible for putting together the Sunday workshop panel, the Sunday and Monday slate of presenters, as well as the moderators and facilitators for both days. If you want to have an impact--volunteer. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Carolyn Bible, 512/371-1263.

REGION NEWS

Region 3-Metroplex February Luncheon

Joan Pickard is an EWTG member at the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The February 1997 meeting of Metroplex members and guests was held February 26, in the Faculty Club at UT Southwestern Medical Center. The guest speaker was Mr. Victor Mantilla, Manager of Child Support for Area 4 of the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Mantilla enlightened all of us on how the Legislature impacts child support.

At the March 26, meeting each member will share some experience, strength or knowledge that would be helpful to other members. The Faculty Club at Southwestern has been established as the regular location for monthly meetings. The members and guests meet regularly on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For further information on dates, locations or attendance, please call Claudia Stravato at 214/648-9201.

Austin Region: March Mini-course

Nancy Seibert is an EWTG member with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

Roseanna Sanders, wardrobe consultant and professional shopper, specializes not only in shopping, but in helping you work with the wardrobe you have. She will offer advice on dressing up in a new job, spring fashions, and building a professional and personal wardrobe that fits your lifestyle. Ms. Sanders is a seventeen-year veteran of the IBM administrative staff, has spent five years in retail doing wardrobe consultations, as well as sales and marketing, and has participated in producing several fashion show fund-raisers, she has been in business for herself for three years. In the past two years, she has appeared on KEYE, KVUE, and KVUE-TV discussing shopping for clothes, fashion, and her business as a personal shopper.

Austin Region: February Luncheon

There's a new sheriff in town! Come meet Travis County's new sheriff at the next EWTG monthly luncheon. The Honorable Margo Frasier will be our guest speaker at the March 26 luncheon. Sheriff Frasier is the first woman in Travis County history to serve as sheriff. Frasier is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer and chief Corrections Officer of Travis County. Sheriff Frasier heads an agency of more than 1,100 employees with an annual budget of \$48 million (1997). The Travis County Sheriff's Office patrols an area of 726 square miles, has more than 30 buildings, and houses more than 2,100 inmates.

Prior to becoming sheriff on January 1, 1997, Frasier was a partner in the law firm of Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever and McDaniel, L.L.P. In her law practice, she represented and advised police departments and sheriff's departments in criminal justice, civil rights and employment law matters.

Sheriff Frasier has also served as a deputy sheriff, as a captain in the corrections division, and has conducted criminal justice training at the local community college. Contact Carolyn Bible, EWTG Executive Director, for reservations, 512/371-1263.

1997 Regional Officers

Region 1-High Plains

Rebecca Berryhill,
806/767-0445

Region 3-Metroplex

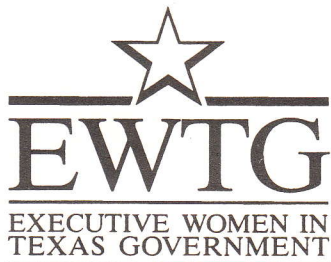
Dianne Neill, Chair,
214/953-0380
Johnnie Fleming, Vice
Chair, 972/289-3400
Annette Brannan, Secretary
214/648-9854
Sharon Mogford, Treasurer
214/648-6106
Claudia Stravato, Regional
Representative,
214/648-9201

Region 6-Gulf Coast

Frankie Watson, Chair,
713/977-2613
Holly Faison, Chair-elect,
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Melinda Metteauer,
Membership, 713/767-3101
Rosa Broussard,
Programs, 713/795-0550
Patricia Bradley, Treasurer,
713/845-2800
Beth Frank, Secretary/
Historian, 713/977-2613
Mamie Peacock,
Parliamentarian,
713/767-2000
Sam Manning,
Communications,
713/767-2295

Region 8-San Antonio

Christina Guerra, Chair,
210/736-4466
Sharon Pinkston, Chair-
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Martha Ling, Vice Chair,
210/567-2767
Pat Edwards, Membership,
210/431-2393
Pat Ramirez, Program,
210/615-5889
Celeste Carpenter,
Treasurer, 210/532-8811



*EWTG Spring Reception
Honoring the Women Who Lead State Agencies*

*EWTG members are invited to attend
the 1997 Spring Reception.*

*View the galleries of the Austin Museum of Art
as you enjoy musical entertainment, refreshments, and networking
with other EWTG members
and our honored guests.*

*Thursday, April 3, 1997
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.*

*Austin Museum of Art
823 Congress Avenue*

*RSVP 512/371-1263 by 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 28
No Charge - EWTG Members Only - Space Limited*

1997 Conference Plans Underway: Registration Fees Restructured

The 1997 Conference Committees are already hard at work planning an outstanding conference. This year's conference will be held on Sunday and Monday, November 23-24 at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. In response to comments received from participants for several years, the 1997 Conference will be a two-day event. More informational sessions will be offered as well as more time to visit exhibits and network with other participants. The registration for the two-day event will begin at \$145 for members and \$195 for nonmembers. This is an exceptional value for a conference packed with information and opportunities.

Let us hear from you!

Send items for publication in the EWTG Star to:
Carolyn Bible/Executive Women in Texas Government
Suite 210A, 3500 Jefferson
Austin, Texas 78731
Phone: 512/371-1263
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 April Newsletter is March 19, 1997.

EWTGSTAR

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Address Correction Requested

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