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Have you renewed your annual membership dues? See page 4 for details! Support OWL-Dallas!

Letter from the OWL-Dallas President

Dear OWL-Dallas Members,

I am very excited about our programs and other OWL-Dallas activities planned for 2011. Our main goal this year is to increase our membership by re-engaging our past members and recruiting new ones. We would also like to increase our visibility in the community, increase our advocacy efforts, and engage in some fundraising activities. To accomplish this, we need your help.



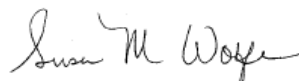
What can you do to help? Here are some immediate needs:

- If you have not renewed your membership this year, please do so as soon as possible at <http://www.owldallas.org/join.htm>.
- Tell your friends, co-workers, and family members about OWL Dallas and encourage them to join.
- Volunteer to help with setting up and hosting the OWL Purple Tea on April 27th to honor our past presidents and welcome our OWL National Executive Director to Dallas.
- Help us to organize and implement a Silent Auction at the Purple Tea. We need donated items and someone to help organize and monitor the table.
- Donate airline miles or hotel points to support our visit from the OWL National Executive Director and our national representative's travel to board meetings.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating to help us fill one of these needs, please e-mail me at OWL@theseniorsource.org. Tell me your interest, your name, and contact information (phone and e-mail please).

I hope to hear from you soon, and look forward to meeting you all at the OWL Purple Tea!

Sincerely,



Susan M. Wolfe, Ph.D.
President - OWL Dallas

Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 463-0100

- Dist. 65: Burt Solomons (R)
(972) 394-3904
- Dist. 66: Van Taylor (R)
(972) 398-9416
- Dist. 67: Jerry Madden (R)
(972) 424-2235
- Dist. 100: Eric Johnson (D)
(214) 565-5663
- Dist. 101: Cindy Burkett (R)
(972) 824-2146
- Dist. 102: Stefani Carter (R)
(214) 939-8700
- Dist. 103: Rafael Anchia (D)
(214) 758-1513
- Dist. 104: Roberto Alonzo (D)
(214) 941-8200
- Dist. 105: Linda Harper-Brown (R)
(972) 401-8825
- Dist. 106: Rodney Anderson (R)
(972) 652-0876
- Dist. 107: Kenneth Sheets (R)
(214) 370-8305
- Dist. 108: Dan Branch (R)
(214) 745-5883
- Dist. 109: Helen Giddings (D)
(972) 224-6795
- Dist. 110: Barbara Mallory
Caraway (D)
(214) 946-3626
- Dist. 111: Yvonne Davis (D)
(214) 941-3895
- Dist. 112: Angie Chen Button (R)
(972) 510-4199
- Dist. 113: Joe Driver (R)
(972) 276-1556
- Dist. 114: Will Hartnett (R)
(972) 259-1776
- Dist. 115: Jim Jackson (R)
(512) 463-0468

Legislative Priorities for 82nd State Legislative Session - Lynda Ender, VP of Advocacy

Advocacy Needed Today!!!

Mandatory Geriatric Training for Health Care Practitioners

Currently, there is a shortage of geriatric physicians and health care practitioners with geriatric training to provide the medical care older Texans need and deserve. Many practicing physicians with little or no formal training in the field of geriatrics are treating elderly patients. The need for well trained physicians and other health care professionals is critical and will continue to increase.

No Cuts in Medicaid Reimbursement

Texas is under-funding Medicaid for nursing home clients. This is threatening the quality of long-term care in Texas. Approximately 115,000 elderly Texans rely on Medicaid funding for their care in a nursing home. Texas remains at the bottom of Medicaid rates across the country. Increases in provider rates for Medicaid have not kept pace with the cost of care and inflation.

Reinstate Utility Assistance for Seniors of Modest Means

Texas needs to reinstate the system benefit fund for the Lite Up Texas Program. Texans currently pay a surcharge on their electric bills, and much of this money is diverted into the general revenue fund. Texas should reinstate the Lite Up Texas system benefit fund as a dedicated fund to provide utility assistance for seniors and others of modest means. Utility assistance calls are the largest category at 211 and most social service agencies.

**Please call or write your support
on one or all of the OWL priorities.**

State Officials:

State Capitol
Austin, TX 78711

Governor:

Rick Perry (R)
(800) 252-9600

Lieutenant Governor:

David Dewhurst (R)
(512) 463-0001



Now and Then - Sydney S. Farrier, VP of Programs

The Dallas Chapter of OWL is now an “e” organization! We believe this form of communication will be beneficial due to continuing advances in technology, and as a time-saving measure. We understand the importance of continuing to provide information and education, but also recognize the need for personal interaction. Therefore, in addition to the “e” newsletter, OWL has scheduled four programs in 2011.

For those of you who missed our first program, “Dallas Services for Adults: Opportunities and Challenges”, held on January 26th, OWL members and other attendees heard from a panel of women who, collectively, have well over 100 years of experience with advocacy and service delivery for older adults.

Martha Blaine, Executive Director of the Community Council of Greater Dallas, pointed out there is an enormous demographic shift not only in Dallas, but in the world. Locally there is an unprecedented increase in persons over the age of 65 and over age 85. “Retiring ‘baby boomers’ will shape future financial, political, economic, and social dynamics,” reported Ms. Blaine.

Constance Smith with City of Dallas Senior Services, and Marian Denny, Senior Manager of Mobility Management Planning for DART, concurred with Ms. Blaine that there are two serious challenges in the DFW area to meet the needs of the growing older population: affordable housing and transportation.

Molly Bogen, Executive Director of the Senior Source, gave a brief overview of a new geriatric care management service provided by their agency. Ms. Bogen reported that senior safety is also an area of concern, and they will be working on a grant for a new program that will serve as a model in addressing that issue.

Preview of the remaining programs of the year:

Wednesday, April 27th, OWL will present a **Purple Tea** to honor OWL past presidents. Current Executive Director of National OWL, Bobbie Brinegar, will be in attendance. This event will be held in a beautiful private home from 3 until 5 pm. We encourage attendees to make their reservations early. Address and RSVP information will be forthcoming.

Wednesday, June 29th, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at The Senior Source—Speaker Rose Garrett Daughety, OWL Representative to National, will provide the Mother’s Day report on health care.

Wednesday, September 28th, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at The Bridge (Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance) - Rev. Bruce Buchanan and Judy Noble, LCSW will speak on the challenges of meeting the needs of homeless women and seniors.

*“The Dallas
Chapter of OWL
is now an ‘e’
organization!”*



**Dallas OWL
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**Southeast Regional Rep.
to National OWL**

Rose Daughety

**We're on the web
at
Owldallas.org**

Insider designed and
edited by Vicki D. Smith



**THREE GOOD
REASONS TO
RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP!**

April 27, 2011– A **Purple Tea** honoring the past presidents of OWL. 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in a lovely private home. The National Executive Director of OWL will be joining us for this event!

June 29, 2011– 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Source. The **OWL Mother's Day Report - Health Care Reform.**

September 28, 2011– 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Bridge: **"Challenges in Serving Homeless Women and Seniors"**.

Your new Board of Directors is working hard to keep you informed and educated about issues of importance to us. But we need your help! **PLEASE** renew your membership today!

Your annual \$50 membership dues support not only the local Dallas chapter, but also contributes to the success of the National Organization in Washington, D.C. They do a super job of lobbying on our behalf, and your participation makes a big difference!

**Send your check to: OWL at the Senior Source
3910 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75219**