



TheDallasAssembly

News for Leaders Who Care

Winter 2008 Newsletter

2007-2008 Board of Directors

President

Dan Routman

Immediate Past President

Stewart Thomas

VP, Programs

Helen Holman

Cheryl Brown

VP, Dine Around

Jud Pankey

Nicole Small

VP, Seminar

Debra Hunter Johnson

David Michel

VP, Membership

Angela Reed Shellene

Walt Human

VP, Communications

Lee Blaylock

Secretary

Victor Toledo

Treasurer

Marie Perry

Executive Director

Margaret Jackson

Mission Statement of The Dallas Assembly

“To educate and enlighten a diverse group of leaders, and through them, activate the community.”

www.TheDallasAssembly.com



President's Message Dan Routman

Dear DallasAssembly Member,

As we move into the second semester of our term, I want to mention that the Board has done a terrific job in carrying our mission to educate and enlighten members.

Helen and Cheryl have planned and hosted some very informative monthly Programs, which are reviewed below. Nicole and Jud have arranged a fun evening of dining and conversation in the great high-rises of Dallas, and Debra and David are putting together an entertaining and educational trip to Carmel Valley, California. We hope that as many of you as possible will join in these events.

Under Angela and Walt's leadership, we're about to select new members, and we appreciate your efforts in nominating some outstanding prospects. I want to thank Lee for compiling and editing this informative newsletter. Please expect some news from Lee shortly about a new and exciting way that we're going to communicate as a group. Victor is eager to plan the Annual Meeting, and Marie has kept our finances in order. Last but not least, Margaret and Stewart are doing their best to keep me in line.

Your participation makes the Dallas Assembly what it is, and Dallas a better place to live. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dan Routman

Dan



Upcoming Programs....Dine-Above 2008 Saturday, February 23

This year's "Dine-Above" is focused on experiencing Dallas's newest neighborhoods in and around Turtle Creek, Uptown and the Downtown area. These new neighborhoods are all vertical, as Dallas has had a renaissance in high rise living. Whether viewing the Trinity or the skyline, we plan to experience this Dine Around from high above the Dallas streetscape with Wendy Krispen's delectable catering.

If you have an interest in being part of one of our vertical venues, please let Margaret know.

Past Program Wrap Up.... September Assembly Meeting

In anticipation of the November 6 Trinity River Toll Road Referendum, TheDallasAssembly's 2007-2008 year kicked off with a standing-room-only, impassioned debate between former Mayor Ron Kirk and City Councilmember Angela Hunt on September 20. The debate was moderated by Shelley Kofler, news director of KERA. Leaders on both sides of the referendum, Kirk and Hunt shed light on one of the most critical projects in city history by sharing their differing perspectives.

Nine years ago, Dallas voters narrowly approved \$246 million in initial bond funds for what has now grown into the complex Trinity River Corridor Project encompassing park, recreation, flood-control and transportation elements. This summer, Hunt collected enough voter signatures to prompt a citywide referendum on whether to block the creation of a planned toll road inside the Trinity's riverbed. Proposition 1 would have in part limited any highway constructed within the Trinity River Corridor's earthen levees to four lanes with a 35 mph speed limit.

As an advocate of the proposition, Ms. Hunt argued that building the planned high-speed toll road would irreparably harm the adjacent urban park planned as part of Dallas' overall Trinity public works effort. She proposed that the toll road could be built outside the levees, along Industrial Boulevard or elsewhere. She also voiced concerned about escalating cost estimates and other changes to the original Trinity Parkway.

As a supporter of the Vote No! Save the Trinity campaign and leader of the original bond proposition, Kirk argued that blocking the planned inside-the-levees toll road would cause needless delays and cost overruns for a project that's on the verge of realization after years of holdups. He also suggested that building the road elsewhere could cost hundreds of millions of dollars more, and not building it at all would lead to unacceptable traffic congestion in downtown Dallas.

October Assembly Meeting

Co-hosting with The Friends of KERA, TheDallasAssembly presented "A Conversation with Jim Lehrer" on October 31. An award winning journalist, anchor and accomplished author, Mr. Lehrer spoke about his professional career as well as his new novel, Eureka.

Lehrer began his news career in Dallas as a reporter for *The Dallas Morning News* and later joined *The Dallas Times Herald* where he worked as a reporter, a political columnist and the city editor, His newspaper career led him to public television, first at KERA in Dallas then at PBS in Washington, DC.



He is perhaps most well-known for his PBS show, The MacNeil/Lehrer Report, now called The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

Mr. Lehrer discussed his personal style of journalism which throughout his career has focused on delivering news in a direct, understandable and fair manner through civil discourse contrasted to the “news as entertainment” style offered by many nightly news programs today. He also entertained us with stories about his childhood, his early days in journalism and his love of trains. In providing an overview of his 17th novel, Eureka, he conveyed a witty portrait of American middle age and the unfulfilled dreams of childhood.

November Assembly Meeting

On November 14 Chris Durovich, President and CEO of Children’s Medical Center and Julia Easley, Executive Director of the Coalition for North Texas Children and Director of Advocacy for Children’s Medical Center, presented key findings from the recently released edition of **Beyond ABC: Growing up in Dallas County**. Also in attendance were invited guests from key community groups and agencies which focus funding and programming efforts on the welfare of children.

The most comprehensive quality of life assessment available on the children in our community, the report provides a clear view of the status of children in Dallas County and serves as a key tool to inform decision-makers that affect their well being. This sixth edition presents a trended look at indicators of child well being in four key areas: health, education, safety and economic security.

Both successes and opportunities for critical improvement were discussed. Successes include:

- 38% increase in children enrolled in Medicaid since 2001
- 23% increase in women receiving early prenatal care
- 46% decrease in the rate of teen pregnancy
- The number of children enrolled in Head Start or Public School Pre-K tripled since 1990
- Child homicides declined from 109 deaths in 1992 to 37 in 2004

The most pressing issues include:

- 285 children died before their first birthday in 2004, the highest rate in 10 years
- One in five children is uninsured and has limited access to healthcare
- One in five two-year-olds is not fully immunized
- 1/3 of children are considered overweight or obese
- Approximately 160,000 children live below the poverty line
- An average of 5,000 cases of child abuse and neglect are confirmed every year
- There are severe shortages of foster care and substitute homes for children removed from their homes because of child abuse and neglect.
- Texas child-care licensing standards are among the lowest in the nation
- More than 40% of students in the 9th grade do not remain enrolled in school through the 12th grade.

Priority recommendations for improving the status and well being of children in Dallas were also outlined:

- Increase the availability of pre-natal care in the first trimester of pregnancy and focus on factors that affect infant mortality



- Ensure children and youth have access to quality, affordable healthcare with a medical home, mental healthcare, dental care and vision care to promote their healthy development and ability to learn
- Invest in child abuse prevention programs and early childhood education programs that have proven effective.
- Infuse resources into Child Protective Services to reduce caseloads, increase staff retention and effectively protect vulnerable children.

December Assembly Meeting

On December 4 Assembly members enjoyed breakfast with Mayor Tom Leppert. Mayor Leppert discussed his transition into elected office, the challenges he faces, and his hopes for the future of our city. He outlined a number of key accomplishments since his election, including the following:

- With a strong focus on building policy consensus and strengthening interpersonal ties he has worked to unify and to coalesce a city council with eight freshman members.
- He led the passage of a city budget that included funding for 200 new police officers and repeal of Dallas' "verified response" burglar alarm policy.
- After helping to achieve victory for the Vote No! Save the Trinity campaign he began in earnest the work to make the park a reality.
- Demonstrating both his commitment to education and to Dallas' future success, he announced the creation of the "Mayor's Chesapeake Energy Scholarship Fund," the first of several education initiatives aimed at making college education a reality for hundreds of at-risk Dallas students.

Mayor Leppert also discussed the importance of continued economic development in downtown Dallas, including plans for a much-needed Dallas Convention Center hotel.

January Assembly Meeting

At our January meeting, Gregg Fleisher and John Fitzpatrick discussed two unique education programs with strong ties to Dallas: The National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) and the Texas High School Project (THSP). Promoting wholesale design change to bring innovation to our public education system is at the core of both programs.

NMSI was launched in 2007 to replicate programs with a proven impact on math and science education in order to effect change on a national scale. One of these programs, The AP Training and Incentive Program, was developed by the Dallas-based O'Donnell Foundation to increase the number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement (AP) exams in high school. Passing an AP exam correlates with much greater success in college. At the ten original Dallas schools, the number of passing math, science and English AP exams taken by African American and Hispanic students has risen more than twenty times.

A public-private alliance, which includes Dallas-based Communities Foundation of Texas, THSP supports high-need schools and districts statewide to ensure that all Texas students graduate high school ready for college and career success. Initiatives include: (1) assisting districts in redesigning their large urban high schools into smaller learning communities; (2) helping to create schools where first-generation college-going students earn college credit while attending high school; (3) supporting high



performing public charter schools; and (4) supporting the creation of academies and resource centers focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. THSP supports DISD with many of these initiatives.

Membership News: Awards, Recognitions, Promotions & Celebrations!

Valerie Freeman and **Laura Estrada** each received the Real Woman Award from the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. Valerie was named to the national advisory board for the National Association of Women Business Owners.

James C. Ho Received the Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce Law Award

Angie Chen Button – Is running for the Republican primary of State Rep for District 112, which covers most of Richardson and North Garland in Dallas county. The current representative Fred Hill has announced his retirement.

Please go to www.TheDallasAssembly.com to register yourself as a member (top left of page). You will then have access to the “members only” area of the web site. Thanks.



2008 Seminar is almost here!

Painting the Town Green - Discovering an Eco-Friendly Carmel Valley, California

The Seminar trip to beautiful Carmel Valley, California from Friday, April 18 thru Monday, April 21, 2008 is sold out! We do hope to accommodate members who currently are on the waiting list. Speakers and activities are in the planning stages but will include:

- Remarks from thought leaders on environmental issues of interest to our members
- Opportunities for golf, spa, shopping in picturesque Carmel-by-the-Sea and experiencing the environs

On Sunday, we will have a very special “**Behind the Scenes**” tour of one of the world’s largest and most respected aquariums, the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Aquarium, with over 35,000 plants and 623 species of animals, has two exhibits of particular interest --- a 33-foot high tank for viewing California coastal marine life and a one million gallon tank that features one of the world’s largest single-paned windows. In keeping with the Seminar theme, we’ll hear about the Aquarium’s conservation activities including its Seafood Watch program, which raises awareness about the importance of buying seafood from sustainable sources in order to keep our oceans healthy.

More detailed information on events and activities will be shared soon.

If you have not done so already, book your air travel by December 31. Remember, if you book travel the flights listed in the registration materials, your ground transportation to and from the airport will be covered. When booking your air travel with American Airlines, **you must call American Airlines and ask for group travel**. You cannot book on-line. Please use authorization code A3348AQ when booking your ticket.

Deposits of \$500 per person due dates:

December 9, 2007 = \$500,
February 10, 2008 = \$500
March 10, 2008 = \$500

If you have questions, please call Debra Hunter Johnson (214) 351-9272 or David Michel (214) 363-6586.



Member Highlight

**A few minutes with
David Campbell**

Profession: Energy industry

What I do for a living: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Energy Future Holdings Corp. (formerly TXU Corp.)

Dallas Assembly member since: 2007

My most memorable Dallas Assembly experience: Watching the mayoral candidates interact with the group before and after the debate

Civic/Community activities: Board member, Dallas Theater Center. Term member, Council on Foreign Relations. Alumni affairs, St. Mark's School of Texas

My interests are: Spending time with family, international relations & history, golf

My favorite movie: Patton

My favorite restaurants in Dallas are: Any family-friendly places that can readily seat "5 including a high chair"

Family: Wife Tamara (a Radiologist at Methodist Dallas Medical Center) and three children – Carolina (8), Colin (6), and Susanna (2)

Why I have invested my time with the Dallas Assembly: The Dallas Assembly brings together a great group of people who share similar interests and a passion for improving Dallas

If I were mayor for a day, I would: Do everything I could to reinforce that we're all in this together, for the long term – it's not a zero sum or short term game

What I would change most about Dallas: Enhance the green spaces

What I like about Dallas: A place where business gets done. A great place to raise a family.



Member Highlight

A Few Minutes with Brad Cheves

Profession: Higher education advancement – external relations.

What I do for a living: Vice President, Development and External Affairs at Southern Methodist University.

Dallas Assembly Member since: April, 2005

My most memorable Dallas Assembly experience: New member orientation.

Civic/Community activities: Circle Ten Boy Scouts Advisory Board, Dallas Council on Foreign Relations, Dallas Assembly, Dallas Summer Musicals, Hope Network Ministries Board of Directors, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, State Bar of Texas, and Dallas Bar Association.

My interests are: Golf and running.

My favorite movies: Citizen Kane and It's a Wonderful Life.

My favorite restaurants in Dallas: Mi Cocina and Dickey's Barbecue.

Family: Married for 15 years to Angela Baird Cheves, with three sons: Kyle (12), Conner (10), and Keaton (4).

Why I have invested my time with the Dallas Assembly: Because of the Assembly's commitment to the betterment of the Dallas community, and the opportunity to meet and interact with the diverse leadership of Dallas.

If I were mayor for a day, I would: I would recognize all graduating seniors who were the first in their family to go to college. I would highlight the accomplishment of these trailblazing students and the value of higher education for advancing opportunities in the lives of our citizens.

What would I change most about Dallas: I would move the Cowboy's stadium to Fair Park.

What I like about Dallas: The people and the entrepreneurial business spirit.

