



Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2010

From the President

By Christine Reinhard

For the first time since law school, I attended Red Mass at San Fernando Cathedral organized by St. Mary's University School of Law. I was reminded of, regardless of your beliefs, what a beautiful and honorable event it is. Many of our judges and justices were present, as well as numerous faculty members and law students from St. Mary's Law School. Needless to say, I was proud to be there representing you, the Bexar County Women's Bar Association.

As I sat there, I was thinking about my message for November – yes, constantly multi-tasking makes me think sometimes I might have at-

tention-deficit disorder – and all I could think about was the word “thankful.” Of course, perhaps it is because we are approaching our one national holiday where we give thanks for family, friends, football (I am a Texan after all), and all the good in our lives. However, part of my thoughts centered on what a wonderful country we live in, and how thankful I am that we, as citizens, have a voice in our government and rule of law. Each of us can shape our legal system, and I am very thankful for that right and ability.



By the time you read this, the November elections for (con'd on p. 5)

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Autumn Affair 2010 Was a Success!

By Tiffanie Clausewitz and Laura Mason

Thank you, thank you to everyone who helped make An Autumn Affair 2010 a smashing success! Whether you served on a committee, sponsored the event, solicited raffle or auction items, modeled in the Julian Gold fashion show, volunteered at the event, or simply came out to support the BCWBF and Dress for Success San Antonio, we couldn't have done it without you!

We enjoyed beautiful weather in the gorgeous setting of the Witte Prassel Courtyard. The food was delicious and the fashion show so much fun! Our Belva Lockwood award recipients, Elizabeth Copeland and Marissa Helm, shared their moving stories and provided inspiration to us. Pamela Taylor, Executive Director of Dress for Success San Antonio, reminded us that our proceeds are going to a great organization. A good time was had by all, as we auctioned and raffled off some amazing items and packages to raise funds for Dress for Success San Antonio.

Please remember to come to the holiday luncheon on December 10th, when we will present Dress for Success San Antonio with the proceeds from the event!

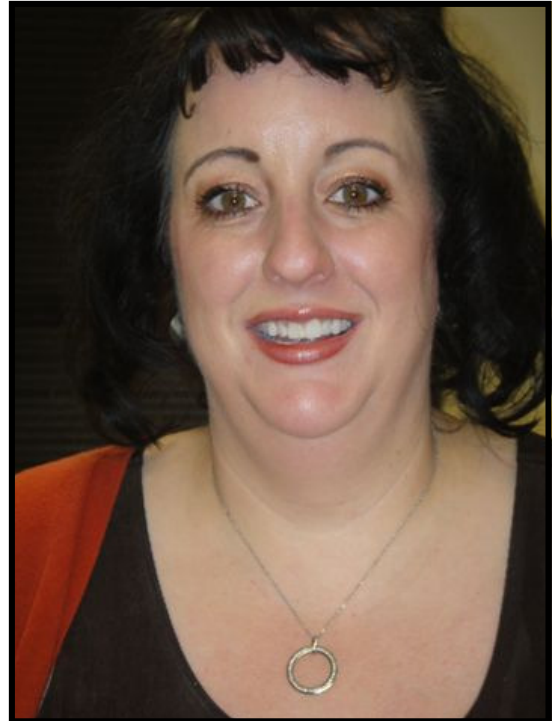


**Many thanks to Autumn Affair 2010 Co-Chairs
Tiffanie Clausewitz &
Laura Mason**

Photos from Autumn Affair 2010



Elizabeth Copeland, 2010 Belva Lockwood Lawyer & Marissa Helm, 2010 Belva Lockwood Young Lawyer



Amber Liddell Alwais, Americus Pendant Winner



Tiffanie Clausewitz, Christine Reinhard, Laura Mason & Marissa Helm



Judge Irene Rios, iPad Winner

Community Service Corner

By Michelle Weekley



Happy November! Can you believe the year is almost gone and Christmas is knocking at our doors? Usually in this section we tell you about different community service activities you can be a part of. I am sure some of you have tried to help out with the things we have mentioned, but many of you may have been too busy or the opportunities passed you by before you could act. Well this month, I implore you to actively participate, because if you do I can guarantee your life will be so much brighter and better, and who doesn't want that?!

November is the month of thanksgiving, and I don't just mean the day we get together with family and friends, and eat turkey and watch football. Novembers give you a whole month to step back and reflect before you get into the holiday rush. That's right, take some time to sit quietly with your favorite drink and reflect on all those people who have made such an impact on your life. With our busy lives we sometimes forget just how thankful we can be to those who make our lives so wonderful.

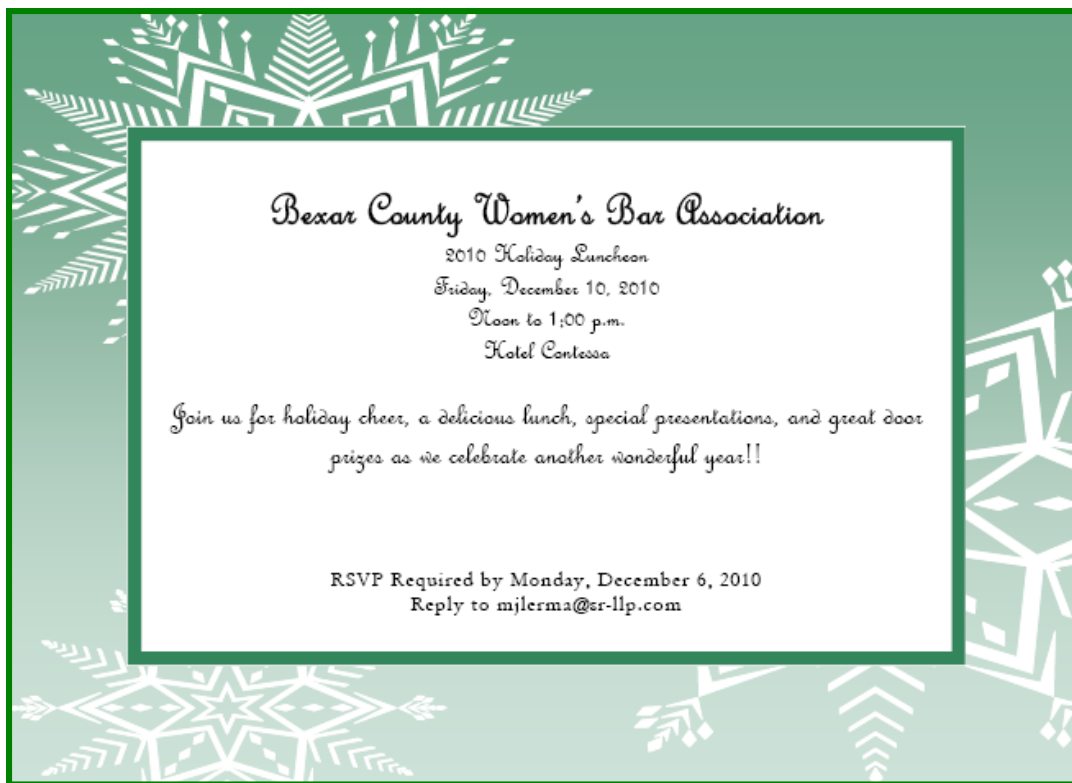
Is there a particular bailiff, secretary, or clerk that always brightens your day, or helps you out tremendously? Why not take time to really thank them, and let them know what a help they have been?

Do you know someone who is or was in the military? Have you ever thought about all the peace and freedom you enjoy because of the sacrifice of a man or woman you may not have even met? Take time to thank those on active duty and those veterans who helped pave the way. (Veterans Day - November 11th).

Have you stopped to think about your spouse, your children, or your parents who have loved and supported you along the way? Let them know how much you love them and appreciate them. Even our pets that love us so unconditionally, and that are such lights in our lives deserve our admiration and love back.

Random Acts of Kindness and love take a moment to do and a lifetime to treasure. I knew a lady who every year on her birthday would buy a dozen roses for her mother to thank her for the gift of life. I know a young man who every month, at the end of the month, buys a dozen roses and then gives one out to 12 different people who he wanted to thank that month for their love and kindness. Such a simple gesture with a resounding affect. So, during this month of thanksgiving, take on an attitude of gratitude and let people (and pets) know how much you appreciate them, because they have helped make you who you are. THAT is what community and service are all about.

I hope this month will revitalize us as we go into the hectic holidays, and that we will continue to grow and learn from each other. Thank you for you!



From the President (con'd)

political offices will have passed. I hope each of you voted, and helped enlighten others as they too exercised their right to vote. I know for myself the ballot was long. But I was impressed my fellow citizens at the ballot box took a long time to exercise their same right. I felt assured voters were making wise choices. However, at the same time, I recognize that, as members of the legal community, we are fortunate to have insight many other citizens do not. We have met, appeared before, interacted with, or just heard of the numerous candidates running for a judicial bench, whereas our fellow electorate may have not. I thus see it up to us to inform others of the choices they have available, so that they too can make educated selections when they press the blinking button that says "VOTE."

Although November 2nd may have passed, you as members of the BCWB still have a chance to exercise your right to vote. It is the time of the year where our organization selects its new officers and directors. Seeing the potential slate of candidates, I am just in awe. We have a

number of fabulous women to select from, and frankly, you cannot go wrong in exercising your right as a BCWB member to vote. However, it is important that we hear from all of you. Each of you have a say, and I hope you remember that when you open up your ballot for our 2011 officers and directors in the coming weeks.

I would of course be hugely remiss if I did not say thank you to our military members and families. November 11th is Veteran's Day, and although many may not have it off from work, we should stop and acknowledge the tremendous service given by our armed forces. They protect us and help ensure we can continue to exercise the freedoms we have. To honor and assist our forces, the San Antonio Bar Association is hosting another Veteran's Clinic on November 13th. The goal is to assist 100 service members with a variety of legal issues or concerns they may have. If you can spare a few hours, I highly encourage you to contact Amanda Buckert at the Community Justice Clinic to find out more.

Pardon Me, But You CAN Go Home Again!

By ileta A. Sumner



Ileta Sumner &
Danielle Hargrove

I know most of y'all thought I was a figment in your imagination. Yeah...a few years back we DID know of a lady named Ileta. OOPS! Spelled her name with a capital "I." Heard she nearly went to fisticuffs with a five-year-old who was just learning proper nouns...that ileta argued for fifteen minutes; had the poor child crying—IN TEARS I tell you! And she had the nerve to giggle her freckled-face heart about it as she walked away. I tell you—they only made one ileta!

I truly HATE referring to myself in the third person, but I had to do it because, when I arrived at what used to be the Bench Brunch and now is so refreshingly recreated into the Autumn Affair, I actually heard my name, MINE, being whispered inside the pavilion where food was being served and where all of the silent action fun was taking place. I felt like "Leopold" in that famous Bugs Bunny cartoon where Bugs was conducting until Herr Leopold arrives. All of the orchestra members start whispering quite loudly, "Leopold! Leopold! LEO-POLD!" Well, that actually happened...I had my "Leopold" moment. "ileta's here. ileta's here. ILETA'S HERE!"

In all honesty, it was quite humbling. I walked up to the identification table, which was being manned by a gaggle of beautiful baby lawyers or law students who said, "And you are...?" I swallowed my pride. "Last name is Sumner." I heard, "Sumner, Sumner, I don't know if we have a Sumner. Do you have a 'Sumner' on your list?" I gulped. I reminded myself I had been sick for five years so these pretty young ladies, and oh my goodness they are YOUNG, young ladies, would find my name shortly. "Oh here she is. Let's find her name tag." "OOOOH she has a pink ribbon. Oh, I'm so sorry Ms. President. Or is it Madame President? Should I say Former Ms. President? I'm so sorry!"

The cute lawyerette came around the table to label me and asked again, "What should I call you?" I looked down at the badge. It had a cute pink ribbon on it from the former president and a purple ribbon for Belva Lockwood. Then I saw it. I have avoided it like the plague, it haunted me so, and yet, here it was: the dreaded "I." "Um, excuse me, but there seems to be a slight mistake – I can't wear this." Blank faces stared back at me. Thankfully, Michelle Weekly was behind the table at that time and ordered, "She's dead serious ladies. Find a black marker and change that into a lower case 'i' now!"

Then Michelle gave me a hug. Wow! That is when my true Autumn Affair began, with one simple hug. Thereafter, "Tia Alma" (as my 12-year-old son, Josh, calls Chief Justice [Ret.] Fourth Court of Appeals) gave a hug so endearing I could truly feel her heart beating next to mine. At that moment, the gang sauntered in, the women who were responsible for twisting my arm (and a leg) and convincing me the BCWBA was the best legal organization around. Before I knew what was happening, I was in the middle of a group hug, but oh what a hug it was: There was Malinda Gaul, Jill Torbert, Justice Marialyn Bernard, Hon. Phylis Speedlin, and Justice Karen Angelini. And then there was Chief Justice Catherine Stone (Fourth Court of Appeals), who rubbed my throbbing back as she gave me a hug. Two of the sweetest hugs came from Danielle Hargrove who had not forgotten about me throughout my five year ordeal, sending me emails, inviting me (con'd on next page)

Pardon Me, But You CAN Go Home Again! (con'd)

to soirees even though we both kind of knew my body was not up to it, and bringing me breakfast (!) despite what she might be going through. The other sweet hug came from Barbara Slavin. She too had refused to forget me no matter how many physical maladies she might have been encountering herself. Can you believe she hobbled to my home and brought me fully prepared meals six weekends in a row? All the while, unbeknownst to me, she was rehabilitating herself? When I saw her at the *Autumn Affair* all I could do was smile.

Amazingly, out of all of the other folks I had to squeeze just to feel that I was alive, Richard Loza, Otto and Elsa Marie Garza, Abigail Kampmann, Pam Huff, Lexie and Elizabeth Copeland (cool speech!), and all of the glorious other people I want to mention by name have no room...there was one person who gave me the most unexpected visceral, sensitive moment of all: We were 4 feet apart; our eyes locked; we blubbered quietly like skinny Cabbage-Patch-Dolls. I had not seen Renée McElhaney in over five years even though, as I politely reminded her, we had shared a bathroom together for four years straight at the BCWBA retreat at the Guadalupe River Ranch. She has such big, beautiful eyes; it pained me to see them well-up with tears. It was much easier to hug her and let the tears run down my back. I clutched onto her as if letting go meant letting go of life itself.

I know my appearance can be startling. Thus, that is one reason I do not go out much. However, the major reason I don't go past my front door is I have illnesses that keep me on the run to the bathroom with either diarrhea or vomiting, make me stutter, zap me of my energy, and, if I do get a good day, cause me to take about eight hours just to get presentable, not even pretty.

We don't aim for pretty much in my house any more. "Just O.K." is a great day in the Sumner household. Jay has been suggesting I re-connect with my sisters at the BCWBA for a while; however, as you can see, I have been hesitant. Heck, I was just in the NE Methodist Cardiac ICU ward two weeks ago for a major heart problem!! So, when not in the hospital, I stay home, never knowing when my heart will fail; always praying my stomach will prevail. I also have some unnamed gastroenterological malady that caused me to lose 90+ pounds in five months – I now wear a size 00, 0, 1, or 2, depending on the designer. I know, a dream for most ladies, a nightmare for my husband who did NOT marry a toothpick, let us just say.

I hadn't wanted to go to any event where lots of people were because I don't like being a toothpick. It's not my "dream weight" and "I am not happy about it." But my hubby, Jay, said, "Look, they are your friends. They love you. You need to see them."

Jay was right. You all were wonderful! You wonderful women who befriended me that first day Cynthia Glass Bivins gave me a seat at her firm's table (Rosa Cabezas--Gill was President), Pam Huff won the Young Belya Lockwood, and so many fantastic women made it a point to come over and introduce themselves to me; I who had yet to sit for the bar exam; I who had no family in Texas but my military hubby who had just been assigned here; I who soon adopted two beautiful baby boys and learned bloodlines are not the only way to define family.

I have viral cardiomyopathy. I will die from it. But until that day, I will be comforted by the hugs of my amazing BCWBA family for I have come home to be with them again. Can I get an Amen?

Saying Thank You

By Maurleen Cobb

Last month my husband and I were walking in uniform and a passerby thanked us for our service. My husband commented that until recently, he felt awkward when people thanked him for serving his country; after all he loves every minute of flying the F-16, and I love the amount of time my service allows me to be in the courtroom and teaching young attorneys. We truly have great jobs. We have both deployed and both had our fair share of having to give up personal rights and liberties for the profession of arms, but this last year when my husband was in Korea and Tyler and I were here in San Antonio was the first time either of us felt we really sacrificed for our country. Now when someone says thank you, we can say you're welcome without awkwardness as we celebrate being safely together again as a family. Having had a glimpse of what our parents, grandparents and forefathers gave up for us to have the freedoms we enjoy, and thinking of those that did not get the joyous reunions we are so lucky to have, Veteran's day is even more special.

There is a poem that I want to share with you. I learned it in ROTC, I remember it each November 11th and I hold it in my heart always.

IT IS THE SOLDIER

It is the Soldier, not the minister, who has given us freedom of religion.
 It is the Soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
 It is the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
 It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to protest.
 It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.
 It is the Soldier, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.
 It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

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This Veteran's Day take a moment to say thank you to a Veteran and deeply consider volunteering some of your time to help those who have served this nation through one of the many initiatives under the Texas Lawyers for Texas Veteran's programs. Saturday, November 13, 2010 the SABA Community Justice Program and Texas Lawyers for Texas Veteran's are holding two legal aid clinics at the Audie Murphy VA Clinic in San Antonio for more information visit <http://www.sabar.org/associations/8808/files/CJPnews.cfm>



It's Election Time for the Bexar County Women's Bar!

By Laura C. Mason

It is time for us to choose our Officers and Directors for the 2011 calendar year! Official ballots will be mailed next week and every current attorney member should receive one. Voting instructions will be included on the ballots and completed ballots must be RECEIVED by 5 p.m. Friday, December 3, 2010 in order to be included in the tally.

The slate of Officers is as follows:

- President-Elect: Emma Cano
- Vice President: Suzanne Oliva
- Treasurer-Elect: Marissa Helm
- Secretary: Danielle Hargrove

We have 7 vacancies on the Board of Directors. The candidates for the Board of Directors, as of November 2, 2010, are:

- Lorie Blount
- Gaylia Brunson
- Maureen Cobb
- Monica Lerma
- Julia Mann
- Katherine Patton
- Jaime Rose
- Brenda Ryan
- Larissa Sanchez
- Hella Schuerman
- Nada Ismail Taha
- Brittany Wild

We have a wonderful slate of candidates – please remember to vote! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Mason, Nominating Committee Chair at 210-299-2324 or via e-mail at lmason@obht.com.



Interested in Serving on a State Bar of Texas Committee?

Committee appointment applications for the 2011-2012 Bar year are being accepted for consideration by President-elect Bob Black. To express interest in serving on a committee, please visit the Committees website to fill out the online form by December 3, 2010.

Committees are established by the Board of Directors and appointed by the President-Elect to consider matters of interest to the Bar membership, update professional materials, recommend changes to policies and procedures, and study legal issues affecting the legal profession and the public.

Committee appointment terms commence after the annual meeting in June of each year. Unless otherwise noted, appointment terms are for three years and no member may serve on more than one committee at a time.

Questions about the committee appointment process? Contact Committees at (800) 204-2222, ext. 1516, or committees@texasbar.com.

Shelley P. Morkovsky Joins King & Sommer



King & Sommer, LLP is pleased to announce that Shelley P. Morkovsky has joined the firm as a Senior Associate. Shelley has practiced for over 10 years, representing landlords, tenants, buyers, sellers, developers, lenders, borrowers and individuals in a wide range of real estate and finance transactions. She is Board Certified in the area of Commercial Real Estate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Shelley earned her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University. In 1999, she earned her law degree *cum laude* from University of Houston Law Center where she served as an Articles Editor of the Houston Law Review, and was a member of the Order of the Barons. Shelley represents lenders and borrowers in the preparation and negotiation of documentation for conventional loans, construction loans, SBA 504 loans, lines of credit, and other financing alternatives. She also represents corporate and individual clients in connection with real property acquisitions and sales, all types of leasing including office, retail, industrial and residential, and the transfer of mineral interests. Shelley represents both municipalities and developers with regard to economic development projects, land use issues and zoning. She volunteers her time in various civic and professional organizations, such as CREW-San Antonio, where she serves as 2010 President-Elect and Delegate to the national CREW Network, previously having served as Director of Programs. Shelley is also active in the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, where she currently serves on the Finance Committee. We are delighted to welcome Shelley to King & Sommer.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Christine E. Reinhard named in the *Best Lawyers in America 2011 Guide*

SAN ANTONIO, TX – October 20, 2010 – Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is proud to announce that Christine E. Reinhard has been selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2011 “**The Best Lawyers in America**” guide, a respected and unbiased peer-reviewed referral publication.

Christine E. Reinhard is a founding partner of the labor and employment law firm Schmoyer Reinhard LLP. Ms. Reinhard's practice encompasses all aspects of labor and employment law. Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Ms. Reinhard regularly counsels employers on strategic and complex employment policy and contractual issues and represents employers in a variety of class and single-plaintiff litigation. Ms. Reinhard is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the San Antonio Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Foundation. She currently serves as President for the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and as the 2010-11 Secretary for the Seton Home Board of Directors. Ms. Reinhard received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in political science and history from Texas A&M University in 1995. She received her J.D. *summa cum laude* in 1999 from the St. Mary's University School of Law.

Best Lawyers, the oldest peer-review legal publication in the nation, each year publishes “**The Best Lawyers in America**”, a referral guide of legal excellence that includes attorneys in 80 practice areas. The list is compiled after an exhaustive peer-review survey in which thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their colleagues.

The results were recently sent to online subscribers and will be published in a print edition in November.

About Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is a San Antonio-based law firm that focuses on advising and representing employers throughout the Southwest United States in all areas of labor and employment law. Both founding partners, Shannon B. Schmoyer and Christine E. Reinhard, are Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and all of the attorneys at the firm have experience counseling their clients on best practices to avoid litigation. When litigation does arise, Schmoyer Reinhard's qualified trial attorneys help achieve the best possible result for the client. In addition, Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is certified as a Women's Business Enterprise by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) in partnership with the Women's Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA).

For more information, please contact Christy Meador, Director of Marketing and Account Services at Schmoyer Reinhard LLP, at 210.447.8033 or cmeador@sr-llp.com.

You're invited!
**"Lunch with
the Mayor -
Women Reaching Higher."**



Presented by Network Power/Texas

Friday, Nov. 5th, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel, 37 N. E. Loop 410

We've hit a home run!
You have a rare opportunity!

The Castro family, together, will share
valuable insights for San Antonio Women!



Mayor Julian Castro, will be our Key Note Speaker and introduce his mother **Rosie Castro**, who will speak about her work as Coordinator, Center for Academic Transitions at Palo Alto College. Then special guest, **Representative Joaquin Castro** will share how Texas women can "look toward tomorrow with hope" through his work on the State Higher Education Committee.

PLUS the Women's Entrepreneurial Enterprises vendors will have booths to showcase their products and services.

This event is sure to be a sell out!
Register online or with the form below.

Support Women Reaching Higher and purchase your ticket today:

\$40 - individual ticket - *early registration until Oct. 28*

\$45 - individual ticket - *after Oct. 29*

\$500 - corporate table for 10 people

Register online:

www.networkpowertexas.com/newtorkpowertexas/Events.html

Contact Ginger Purdy, gingerpurdy@sbcglobal.net

210.826-4240 or Linda Farley, LMF@onr.com

210.656.4696 for more information

**Registration form for
"Lunch with the Mayor-Women Reaching Higher."**

My check in the amount of \$40 is enclosed for an Individual
Admittance (*must be received by Oct. 28*)

My check in the amount of \$500 is enclosed for a Corporate Table

Name: _____

and/or Comapny Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number _____

Email: _____

Attendee Names for Corporate Table Purchase:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____

9. _____ 10. _____

Mail your check to: Network Power/Texas, P. O. Box 171162, San Antonio, TX. 78217-8162

Join us in this rare air, enjoy a Mayoral family affair and help women reach higher!