

Environmental Awards Luncheon

Linda Hanratty, EAA Chair

Plan to attend the Environmental Luncheon at the League Convention in San Marcos on Saturday, April 24. This looks to be a very special Earth Day celebration with seven very worthy honorees from throughout the state and the keynote address by Dr. Al Armendariz, the new EPA Region 6 Director.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Armendariz was a professor in the Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He has a proven track record of addressing complex environmental and public health challenges in everything from solid waste landfills to community and tribal priorities.

Al is a third generation Texan, descended from Mexican and Mexican-American grandparents who settled in the border city of El Paso. He currently lives in Dallas with his wife Cynthia, a public school teacher in Irving ISD, and two sons, Ferris and Simon.

All of our seven honorees are equally outstanding:

- **Business:** Dolphin Blue is a Dallas-based, online retailer of ONLY environmentally responsible office supplies and printed paper products.
- **Nonprofit Education:** Texas Master Naturalist Program is a network of 37 chapters with 5,300 volunteer members who work to improve public understanding of natural resource ecology and management.
- **Catherine Perrine Award:** Dr. Melanie Barnes, is Associate Professor of Geology at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and long-time League member. She was Natural Resources Director and Hazardous Waste Chair for LWV-TX and has been involved in environmental issues on a national, state, and local level for 25 years.
- **Individual:** Terese (Terry) Hershey of the Houston area is a community activist who is particularly interested in environmental issues on the state and national levels. She was a founding board member of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and former member of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- **Media:** EnviroMedia, is a social marketing firm headquartered in San Marcos, committed to delivering authentic, ethical campaigns for clients who want to tell true environmental stories, including the Don't Mess With Texas litter prevention campaign.
- **Public Policy Non-Profit:** Downwinders At-Risk Education Fund is a diverse grassroots citizen organization dedicated to reducing toxic industrial air pollution in North Texas. Their main focus remains on reducing the toxic emissions of the cement kilns.
- **Public Policy Individual:** Karen Hadden, Executive Director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition, has worked to educate the media, citizens, and local and state officials about the need for coal plant cleanup and the health impacts of toxic mercury. She currently leads the advocacy effort in Texas against the eight proposed nuclear reactors.

More information about these awardees will be available in the April *Voter*. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be the best EAA Luncheon ever.