

VOLUME LIX, NUMBER 4 - SUMMER 2009

the TESA CONNECTION



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION, INC.

President's Message



MaryAnn Hollingsworth

Dear TESA Friends,

WOW, what a year! My dream of being TESA President came true, and what a ride it has been. I am so proud to have served as president of such a professional and dedicated group of educational support staff. My logo of "Achieving Excellence Hand in Hand" has definitely been evident throughout my year.

Thanks to each TESA member, affiliate, region service center, school district, university, and college for all of your support during my year as president. To the Executive Board, we made a difference and succeeded in achieving the goals that we set at the beginning of the year. To each chairperson and committee member, thank you for doing what was needed and doing it well. Special thanks to the Past Presidents who were always just an email, or phone call, away when I wasn't sure if I was heading in the right direction. You were always there to advise, to listen and answer my many questions. To my mentors who never gave up on me--Marilyn James, Bettye Ruth Wilson and Irma Ford--thank you for your continued faith that I had it in me to be TESA President. Also, a very big thank you to Ms. Nelda Van Dyke for her continued support and encouragement--you are truly the TESA Doll.

I have been told by some of my predecessors that it will be difficult to let go at the end of my year. I must say that this is not the case with me. During my life, I have struggled to let go of many things, but I can honestly say that turning over the gavel to Gerald Wharton as TESA's next president will be easy. I have great confidence in his ability to lead TESA. In the year that Gerald and I have served together, I have come to know that, like me, Gerald has TESA in his heart and will serve the TESA membership to the best of his ability. He never failed to encourage me, set me straight when I was wrong, or kept me focused in my endeavor of "Achieving Excellence Hand in Hand." Most of all, he has been a great friend.

This has been a wonderful year, and I look forward to continuing to serve TESA as a past president. I encourage each of you to get involved in TESA and "Achieve Excellence Hand in Hand."

With Love and Best Wishes,

MaryAnn Hollingsworth

MaryAnn Hollingsworth
TESA President, 2008-2009
mh70@txstate.edu

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Letter from the Editor & Table of Contents

From the Editor



Wendy Klentzman
Editor

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the magazine this year. Without the membership's contributions there would not be a magazine. I hope that you continue to share with TESA members what you are doing in your associations. I had an awesome team that I worked with putting the magazine together. Thank you, Darcy and Helen. Putting together the TESA Connection with their help made the task much easier.

In this, my last issue as editor, Nelda Van Dyke had a 90th birthday, TESA had a 57th Summer Work Conference, TESA had another awesome CEOP Graduation, Affiliates are sharing, and it is time for STEM Consultant Training and I hope everyone is looking forward to our 2009 TESA Fall Work Conference. Thank you for allowing me to serve TESA as you editor this past year. I look forward to what TESA has in store for all of us.



Darcy Blackstock
Assistant Editor



Helen Kettler
Advertising Manager

| | |
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Nelda Van Dyke's 90th Birthday Celebration

Birthday Celebration!



TESA Past President Nelda Van Dyke turned 90 on February 3. Twelve TESA members were in Brenham on Saturday, January 31 to help Nelda celebrate. Nelda was presented with a dozen yellow roses. After a delicious lunch at Ernie's, the group was served birthday cake with Blue Bell ice cream. Nelda's son, Eddie, joined the group. Pictures were taken and several presentations were made.

After the luncheon, some of the guests went out to see Nelda's apartment at Kruse Village. Joining in the celebration were nine TESA Past Presidents: Irma Ford, Willetta House, Peggy Hudson, Phyllis Hyden, Marilyn James, Barbara Jennings, Linda Sockwell, Debbie Wade, and Jana Worthington; TESA President Mary Ann Hollingsworth; TESA President Elect Gerald Wharton; TESA President Shirley Haswell; and Phyllis Hyden's mother, Jean Mancill.

Nelda was president of TESA in 1979-80; served as TESA president for several years; was TESA's Legislative Consultant for many years; and the TESA Employee of the year award is named for Nelda.

Nelda Van Dyke's 90th Birthday Celebration



Seated: Irma Ford, Debbie Wade, Nelda Van Dyke, Marilyn James, Willeta House, Peggy Hudson - Standing: Jana Worthington, Linda Sockwell, MaryAnn Hollingsworth, TESA President, Gerald Wharton, TESA President Elect 2009-2010, Shirley Haswell, Phyllis Hyden, and Barbara Jennings



Nelda with a collage of pictures and her flag



Nelda and her son Eddie Van Dyke

STEM

One of TESA's primary goals is professional developmental opportunities for its membership – its education and certification program for educational staff is the primary tool for your professional training. TESA'S Staff Training for Effective Management (STEM) offers individual classes for everyone – whatever you need in office practice, spelling, communication, managing change, conflict, and many more – STEM has it for you.

The STEM program is geared toward certification, and once the defined classes and class hours are met, you can receive the Certified

Educational Office Professional certificate (CEOP). The CEOP is the only certification available specifically for educational office support staff in the state of Texas. Certification may provide stipend, advancement opportunities, and meeting other career goals, but most of all, the CEOP provides professional development in your passion as an educational professional – to be the best that you can be.

If you do not have your CEOP, contact your STEM area coordinator, check out STEM on the TESA website, or contact the TESA

office. We look forward to leading you through the STEM classes and certification! Many of the STEM classes are being offered in 2009-2010 all across Texas. There are classes scheduled for summer 2009 and into the 2009-2010 school year at Lone Star College, Mesquite ISD, New Caney ISD, Region VII (Kilgore), and others pending. We look forward to scheduling a lot more STEM classes and we hope to see you there!

TESA STEM COMMITTEE

FROM THE SUMMER WORK CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

THANK YOU

For your participation and support in the 2009
Summer Work Conference

Your SWC committee would like to thank MaryAnn Hollingsworth, Gerald Wharton, and the many TESA members who joined hands with ours to implement the 2009 SWC at the Houston Marriott Westchase.

From the first STEM class on Tuesday, to the closing Brunch on Saturday, TESA members were Achieving Excellence Hand in Hand at the 57th Annual Summer Work Conference. Members had the opportunity at the excellent Breakout Sessions, STEM Classes and Extended Sessions to work towards “Achieving Excellence Hand in Hand”; to reflect on the “Hands of the Future” at the President’s Luncheon; and enjoy the evening with their peers at the “Hand in Hand Reaching for the Stars” Installation and Banquet.

We encourage you to continue to work towards Achieving Excellence Hand in Hand through the years and look forward to seeing each of you again in the near future.

Sue Hand, Conference Chair
Lamar CISD

Robin Pool, Registration Chair
Pasadena ISD

Debbie McFadden, Social Chair
University of Houston-Clear Lake

Annette Knaus, Exhibits Chair
North East ISD, Retired

Summer Work Conference 2009

TESA 57th Annual Summer Work Conference - June 17-20, 2009

Marriott Houston Westchase



Registration



Flag Ceremony



Flag Ceremony - Nelda Van Dyke and her son Eddie Van Dyke



Nelda Van Dyke and Gerald Wharton

Summer Work Conference 2009

TESA 57th Annual Summer Work Conference - June 17-20, 2009

Marriott Houston Westchase



Nancy Cobb & MaryAnn Hollingsworth - Nancy was our keynote speaker June 18 at the General Session



Judith Goodman - Keynote speaker June 20 Saturday Brunch



Wow! A full house



Were you there?

SWC 2009 Awards

TESA 57th Annual Summer Work Conference - June 17-20, 2009

Marriott Houston Westchase



Administrator of the Year

Dr. Linda Henrie, Superintendent Mesquite ISD

Standing behind her is the Mesquite Educational Paraprofessional Association members that attended the SWC.



Nelda Van Dyke Employee of the Year

Lisa E. Gonzalez, Rio Grande Valley Educational

Secretaries Association Donna ISD

On the left is Nelda Van Dyke and on the right is Lisa Gonzalez

STEM Graduation at SWC 2009

TESA CEOP Graduation - Summer Work Conference

Houston, Texas - June 17, 2009



Names of graduates:

Elava Brandt
Dolores Cantu
Maria A. Cardenas
Syble Coleman
Elizabeth Cormier
Terri Culbert

Brenda Culter
Margie Fern
Socorro Fernandez
Ruby Garcia
Mauricio Garza
Maria Guevara
Elva Guzman

Berta I. Lopez
Mary Martinez
Norma McDowell
Barbara McMann
Elia Murillo
Barbara Neumann
Maria I. Ornelas

Veronica Perez
Alejandra Ramos
Karen Rhoden
Liza Roblez
Brenda Rodriguez
Olga Rodriguez
Kathi Underwood



Dealing with Difficult People

By Barbara Springer Jennings, CEOP. CEOE

Difficult - what does it mean to you?

Tough, demanding, hard, challenging, testing.

Why are people “difficult”?

Their personality is “negative” they don’t see how harmful their actions are to others and their careers.

These type people challenge our ability to get things done.

Changing our attitude toward them will help us find a wealth of knowledge to improve our own abilities to work with difficult people.

Results of being a difficult person

- 1) people will avoid you
- 2) people will learn to ignore you
- 3) people will not share their ideas and opinions
- 4) “YOU” could be fired because of your bad decisions and poor leadership abilities

8 ways YOU can better deal with difficult people

- 1) don’t get hooked ... this can come from the way people look at us, how they talk, smell, and even by their general demeanor
- 2) don’t let them “GET TO YOU” ... we may allow others attitude to irritate or annoy us... they win when our tone of voice and body language give us away – don’t get emotionally involved
- 3) listen – listen – listen ...when face to face nod your head and keep good eye contact...if you are on the telephone respond with “Uh Hu – I See – I Understand”
- 4) get all the facts – write them down...repeat back to ensure your understanding
- 5) use their name – it is a warm sound and says you have recognized them as an individual...don’t overdo
- 6) don’t blame – it adds fuel to the fire
- 7) watch out for people’s “egos”...by not interrupting, arguing, jumping in with solutions, allow them to let off steam, DON’T SAY “CALM DOWN!”
- 8) try to see the situation from their point of view...we may ask “what’s the big deal?” Well, to the difficult person it is a BIG DEAL! They want us to appreciate the situation.

You don’t have to agree with the difficult person, however you must recognize it is a problem for them.

The difficult person may not always be right but we must let them be wrong with dignity.



Barbara Jennings

Barbara Jennings, CEOP, CEOE retired in January 2008 from San Jacinto College after 32 years of dedicated service. She began her career as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Counseling, Testing, and Placement on the Central Campus. Together they established the Testing Center on the Central Campus. When her supervisor retired she transferred to the Construction and Safety Department where she was administrative assistance to the directors for 14 years. Her last 3 years of employment was as an Enrollment Specialist in the college call center.

Barbara has been active in the Texas Educational Support Staff Association, (TESA) for 18 years. She served as chairman of several committees, and has been Past President & Marketing Chairman of the association.

She has been honored with the prestigious Nelda Van Dyke Employee of the Year Award, Outstanding Member for AEOP and she has also been honored by the college with the District Employee Excellence Award. A 37 year member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Barbara has 35 years perfect attendance and has been honored as Woman of the Year and Sweetheart numerous times.

Barbara states that her most humbling experience was participating in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

A TERMS counselor commissioned in August 2000 by her church Barbara is also a grief counselor and presents grief workshops. She states of all the titles and honors she has been blessed with her favorite title is "Nana."

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Branded items shown include: a pen, a water bottle with "ATHLETIC DEPT. 2008", a yellow cup with "RAPTORS", a white box with "GIANTS", a green bag with "FOODIN'S", an orange cap with "VOLUNTEER", a red bag with "Centerville Chargers", a black shirt with "BEARS", and a purple shirt with "PIRATES".

2009 – 2010 President's Comments



Greetings:

Let me introduce myself, I am Gerald Wharton, CEOP. I grew up in the central Texas area (Austin and Waco). I attended Southwest Texas State University; now called Texas State University – San Marcos. I have a bachelor's degree in Biology, and served more than 20 years in the United States Air Force. I have been a TESA member for 16 years, since the first year I entered the public education field at Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, upon retiring from the Air Force. I

began my education career at the middle school, as an In-School Suspension Assistant. I transitioned to the disciplinary alternative school, as school secretary. I have been in my current job, for the last 11 years, as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Special Services.

As a TESA member, I have served on various committees: such as Affiliate Services, Summer Work Conference – Social Chairman, Ad Manager for the TESA Connection, etc. My first position on the TESA executive board was as Member-at-Large – Awards/Scholarships/Journalist. Followed by: Member-at-Large – Nominations, 2nd Vice President – Membership, Parliamentarian/Legislative Consultant (twice), President Elect and now President.

I have been fascinated with bees, since childhood. Growing up on a farm, outside Waco, we had bees. There was always a lot of activity near the bee hive, and bees all over the farm. They were interesting to observe. Harvesting the honey was always exciting. As a child, I never understood how a small amount of smoke would keep the bees calm, while harvesting the honey. I did know that getting too near the hive without smoke could be very painful. Bees are very protective and organized. As I got older, I learned that bees work cooperatively, communicate with each other by doing a “bee dance.” This dance tells all the other bees where to find flowers with good nectar. Fossil of bees have been found dating back 180 million years. Scientifically honeybees should not fly, but they do!

I have selected the honeybee as my symbol for the 2009-2010 year. This tenacious insect represents an ability to survive, when other species have disappeared. The bee has been a positive symbol throughout the ages in virtually all cultures

2009 – 2010 President's Comments

around the world. Bees are social, organized communities working harmoniously together for a common cause. Our cause is TESA.

The honeybee symbolizes many things, but I have selected three areas to focus: Renewal, Wisdom, and Loyalty. We need to renew our enthusiasm for TESA and continue to grow our membership; as well as renew ourselves, our relationships, etc. The honeybee constantly renews its hive. We need to increase our wisdom, daily. This is accomplished through self-development by attending trainings, workshops, and conferences; plus networking with co-workers, friends, and family. Lastly, we need to remain loyal to each other, as TESA members; as well as, our family and friends. The honeybee has thrived while other species have faded away because they constantly renew the hive, they readily share their wisdom for the hive survival, and they are loyal to each other. As TESA members our organization will flourish and grow if we follow the honeybee's example.

I look forward to serving TESA. Along with the executive board we will be good stewards of our funds, steer the organization to increased membership, and create an inviting, enthusiastic spirit for TESA's membership.

Best regards,

Gerald Wharton

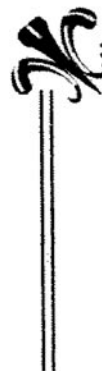
Gerald Wharton, CEOP
President 2009-2010



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2009 STEM Consultant Training
October 2-4, 2009
Hampton Inn and Suites Cedar Park/Cypress Elementary School
Austin, TX 78750

Registration Form

The registration fee for Consultant Training is \$40.00, due by **September 25, 2009**. Fees cover the cost of materials, training, and lunch on Saturday. On-site registration will be \$45 (includes \$5 late fee.) Make checks payable to TESA and mail to the TESA Central Office located at P.O. Box 1565, Austin, TX 78767-1565.

- **Registration deadline for Consultant Training is September 25, 2009**
- **Deadline for hotel room reservations at the Hampton Inn and Suites is September 25, 2009.**
- **Hampton Inn and Suites 10811 Pecan Park Blvd Austin, Texas (PH) 512-249-0045 (Fax) 512-249-5792.**
- **Cypress Elementary 2900 El Salido Parkway Cedar Park, Texas 78613.**

Please Print:

Name _____ Member ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone: _____

Meals:

Will you be eating dinner at 5:00 on Friday at the Olive Garden? _____ Yes _____ No

Will you be eating dinner at 5:00 on Saturday at the Rudy's? _____ Yes _____ No

**The Hampton Inn serves a hot and cold breakfast menu free to each guest.*

| Day | Times | Choice | Classes | Who? |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---|---|
| Friday | 7:30 -10:30 pm Cypress Elem. | | Consultant Team Building <i>(3 hrs STEM credit)</i> | Mandatory for Everyone |
| Saturday | 8:00 – 9:00 am | | Registration/Opening | Everyone |
| | 9:00 – 12:00 am | | Presentation Skills | *First Timers (Mandatory) CITs welcomed |
| | 9:00 – 12:00 am | | Profile for Success | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Basic Communication (rewrite) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Assisting Difficult People (new class) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Managing Change | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| Lunch | 12:00 – 1:15 pm | | Lunch – Baked Potato & Salad | Everyone |
| Saturday Cont. | 1:15 – 4:15 pm | | Customer Service | *First Timers (Mandatory) Consultants In Training (CIT) welcomed |
| | 1:15 – 4:15 pm | | Profile for Success (cont.) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Basic Communication (cont.) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Business Grammar (cont.) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Managing Change (cont.) | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| Saturday's Dinner | 5:00 – 7:00 pm | | Rudy's | Everyone Welcomed |
| Sunday | 8:00 – 8:30 am 8:30 – 11:30am | | STEM updates/questions & answers | Everyone |
| | | | Customer Service (cont.) | *First Timers and CITs welcomed |
| | | | Professional Image | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Leadership and Team Building | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Time Management | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | | | Dialogue of Diversity | Experienced Consultants & CITs |
| | 11:30 – 12:30 pm | | Closing and Certificates | Everyone |

*First Timers will present a portion of the class attended Saturday on Sunday



Loan Star College-Kingwood

It has been a long road for the Lone Star College-Educational Office Professionals Association. For the last 10 years we have formed an organization, failed, tried again, and failed once again. But the Lone Star College-Educational Office Professionals Association did not give up that easily. Our college system serves more than 50,000 students throughout the greater Houston area at five colleges, six satellite centers and a university center. Having members from throughout the system was not working in our favor; travel for meetings was a problem. The Kingwood group broke away and formed their own association in December 2008 and proudly boasts 27 members today. Phyllis Hyden, TESA Immediate Past President conducted the Installation of Officers on April 22nd (Administrative Professionals Day). Two STEM Classes are being held (in house) on Thursday, May 18th at the Lone Star College-Kingwood Campus and are being made available to all support staff. Plans are underway for a fundraiser Casino trip in late July.



Phyllis Hyden, Past TESA President for 2007-2008, installed the officers of Lone Star College-Kingwood on April 22, 2009, Administrative Professionals Day. There are 25 members in the association.



The new officers for Lone Star College-Kingwood Educational Office Professionals Association are: Maria McNease, President; Sony Simon, Secretary/Treasurer; Sarah Berry, Vice President

San Jacinto College AEIP, Association of Educational Office Personel

Highlights of 2008-2009

San Jacinto College AEOP has had a good year despite all the setbacks due to Hurricane Ike. We were blessed to be able to get back to work after two and one-half weeks while San Jacinto College was being repaired in order for us to return to work safely. Our annual Bosses' Luncheon in October was rescheduled to March. We were honored to have Mr. Crockett DuBose, Chief of Staff, Galena Park ISD as our guest speaker or should I say singer. He certainly entertained everyone with a wonderful rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings".



Mr. Crockett DuBose

This event is always special and this year we honored Dr. Wanda Simpson Munson as the 2009 Boss of the Year. Dr. Wanda Simpson Munson began working at San Jacinto College in January, 1992 as Registrar at the North Campus. In May, 2007 she assumed the responsibilities of the District College Registrar and Dean of Enrollment Management. Dr. Simpson Munson sets high expectations and goals of her staff and challenges them to meet these expectations and goals. She, also, puts forth every effort to help her staff in achieving their goals.

She encourages staff to attend professional development seminars, join professional and community organizations, and continue their education.

She is compassionate and is always willing to help and "do right" for the students. Her professional image and love for the College and community is always shown by her dedication to assist the entire San Jacinto College family.

Other events held was our annual Half-Day Seminar in February, which included a silent auction with proceeds benefiting our community service project for the year. In April we hosted a TESA Workshop with approximately 65 TESA members attending from across the state. This workshop enabled many members to work on professional development goals while networking with TESA members. All in all, AEOP bounced back and had a successful year and looking forward to the TESA Summer Work Conference in June.



Kathy Edwards, Denise Davidson, Sherry Gray, Diana Romberger, Dr. Wanda Simpson Munson, Janine Kerr

San Jacinto College AEOP celebrated the end of year with the 2009-2010 Officers' Installation on May 21, 2009 in the Central Campus Library. Everyone enjoyed a potluck luncheon while our program was presented. As Immediate Past President I welcomed everyone and presented our community service recipient Debbie Wade and her husband Jeff with a check as our

San Jacinto College AEIP, Association of Educational Office Personnel

Highlights of 2008-2009

donation towards their recovery from Hurricane Ike.

Sherry then presented scholarship recipients with a check for \$250. All the candidates were outstanding students making it difficult to choose just one from each campus.

Aviana Knochel, a Clear Horizons Early College High School student from South Campus with a 4.0 GPA hopes to graduate San Jac with an Associate Degree in her Senior High year. Aviana has received numerous awards but her outstanding work with the CCISD Robotics Team at NASA and her dreams of being an astronaut make this high school sophomore and early college student a remarkable person.

Sara Terizo of North Campus was unable to attend, however I read a little of her application. Sara is majoring in business with minor in economics which would allow her to work in either the corporate world or as a teacher. She states her teachers have influenced her greatly and that she would like to have the same impact on others as well. Sara is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and will be joining the Honors program next semester. She is a member of the Spanish Club where she has served as secretary and then President. She has helped re-establish the Reach Out and Read program where they read to elementary students at various schools.

Julie Aftab of Central Campus wants to become a missionary in other countries. When she came here five years ago from Pakistan, she could not speak or write English. Since then she has dedicated herself to learn English, graduated High School. One of AEOP's members Sherry Mays wrote Julie is a fulltime student with a 3.14 GPA, works at least 20 hours a week. Sherry stated that this is all very impressive, but what really struck her about Julie is the courage and tenacity she exhibits in her daily life. Julie was persecuted in her home country of Pakistan for her faith in God. Julie was burned with acid by a man with intentions to harm and destroy her. But Julie has defied all odds because she put her faith and hope in God and not allowed herself to be defeated by evil intentions and extreme pain inflicted on her. Julie has inspirations to help other young women from her home country that have been abused and disfigured, left without hope.

Next came our 2009-2010 AEOP Officers Installation ceremony.

TESA President Elect Wendy Klentzman officiated over the installation of the 2009-2010 officers. The officers for 2009-2010 are: President – Kathy Miller, 1st Vice President – Carole Patterson, 2nd Vice President – Angela Klaus, Secretary – Angela Davis, Treasurer – Bonnie San Gennaro, Historian – Roxana Sumrall, Chaplain – Michelle Guidry and Parliamentarian – Sherry Gray. As the 2009-2010 officers were installed, they were each presented with a rose as they accepted their oath of office. After the ceremony, I presented two members with a special award for their dedication and hard work to AEOP with the President's

San Jacinto College AEIP, Association of Educational Office Personel

Highlights of 2008-2009

Choice award going to Barbara Jennings and Debbie Wade. Last but not least, each year AEOP presents one member with the “Outstanding Member of the Year” award. This year’s recipient Kathy Miller spent many long hours making sure AEOP had great keynote speakers and a catered lunch each month. She went out of her way numerous times to see that every detail was in place.



I also presented each of my executive board members and committee chairs a small token of appreciation, a coin purse in the theme of the year, Bridge of Faith. While giving Kathy Miller a wind chime in her theme of Shooting for the Stars, I asked the members to raise their champagne glasses with mini Snickers bars inside to give a “Chocolate Candy Toast” in her success next year I ended my reign as President by presenting the AEOP President’s gavel to Kathy. Kathy finished the meeting with her goals and theme in Shooting for the Stars.

Our next stop, the TESA Summer Work Conference. AEOP has 20 members attending the conference this year. We are excited and ready to network and learn new skills with TESA.

Good things have been going on in Pasadena, Texas this year.

Kay Riggs - 2nd Vice President



Boss Breakfast: Kay Riggs, Robin Pool, Genia Ripley, Sharon Juntunen, Debbie Smith

In September, Judith Goodman, an Elementary Instructional Specialist of Pasadena ISD, was our guest speaker. She talked to us about what it takes to be a great employee and co-worker. We had a good crowd, some great fellowship and a nice meal for our 1st meeting of the school year.

Detective Matt Gray from the Pasadena ISD Police Department gave us an interesting and insightful presentation on Internet Crimes Against Children at our October meeting.

One of our favorite meetings of the year was in November. We always plan a nice craft to do for the holidays. We put together lighted glass snowmen with season changeable outfits. All enjoyed an evening of stress relief.

December was a busy month for PAEOP. Our monthly meeting was December 2nd with our annual Christmas Dinner and gift card exchange. PAEOP also chooses a Caring and Sharing project each December and we gather items to give to them. This year we had a "Baby Shower" for our own Tegeler Child Care Center and stocked up their "baby store." On December 6th, we hosted a "Snacks with Santa" at our Administration Building.

Besides cookies and punch, the children got their pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Santa, made a craft, visited with Rainbow the Clown and a police office.

We had a Windows 2007 PowerPoint presentation at our February meeting by one of our District computer liaisons. PAEOP also hosted a Professional Image STEM training on February 28th.

On March 3rd, we had Melody McCurdy speaking on Dealing with Grief. She discussed with us the stages of grief, effects of death on the person left behind, and some tips on helping a person experiencing grief. We have had several losses in our District this year and she gave us some words of comfort and understanding. On March 6th, PAEOP had our Bosses Breakfast.

Good things have been going on in Pasadena, Texas this year.

Kay Riggs - 2nd Vice President

We honored our bosses with the Coca-Cola theme "Our Bosses are the Real Things..." The breakfast was a fantastic success with 80 people in attendance.

We rounded out the year with our April Officer Installation dinner. Candace Ahlfinger installed our new 09-10 officers and committee chairmen. Debbie Smith is our new President and her theme "is magical." We also awarded our 08-09-scholarship winner with his San Jacinto College scholarship and invited his family to attend our dinner.



PAEOP Board: Carmen Dominguez, Karel Kujawa, Robin Pool, Connie Hobbs, Debbie Smith, Sharon Juntunen, Kay Riggs, Genia Ripley, Carolyn Penney

We hosted a Time Management STEM training on May 2nd and we are looking forward to having several PAEOP members attend the Summer Work Conference in June. See you in Houston!



Mesquite ISD Educational Paraprofessional Board for 2009-2010
Front Row- (left to right) President-Paula Lam-bright, President-Elect-Dianne Lemons
Back Row-(left to right) 1st VP Programs-Sandy Salazar, Parliamentarian-Debbie Faires, Secretary-Jennifer Lamb, Treasurer-Diane Hogg, 2nd VP Membership-Paula Hutchinson, Historian-Tom Warren. Our MEPA board is excited to serve our 482 members.

Rio Grande Valley ESA

Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP - President



On April 16th, the Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff held their last meeting of the year. This meeting was hosted by Rio Grande City CISD VESA members at the Historic "La Borda" Hotel in Rio Grande City, TX. After a tour of the hotel, the meeting went on as scheduled. The officers for the 2009-2011 were elected. The new officers will be installed at the Annual Bosses Banquet.

On April 24, 2009, VESA held its 42nd Annual Bosses Banquet at the Embassy Suites Hotel in McAllen, TX. There were approximately 135 people in attendance. At this banquet, we take the time to honor our bosses. It was ironic that this year the Bosses Banquet fell on Secretaries Week. Mrs. Elizabeth Garza, Assistant Superintendent from Mission CISD, said that this was supposed to be our week, not theirs. During this week, our Administrators took their time to recognize us for our hard work, so why not recognize the Administrators in the same week...afterall, we are supposed to be a team...and teams get recognized together. This year we declared ALL our bosses to be Administrators of the Year. Each boss in attendance was presented with a certificate declaring them Administrator of the Year. As is also our tradition, we announced the Outstanding Support Staff Member of the Year. This year, the award went to Alicia Tamez from Donna ISD. Alicia was recognized for her many years of service to the Donna Independent School District and to VESA.

Rio Grande Valley ESA

Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP - President

Officers for the 2009-2011 were installed by Olga Salinas, Legal Assistant with Jones, Galligan, Key & Lozano Attorneys at Law. Officers are as follows: President, Lisa E. Gonzalez, Donna ISD; First Vice-President, Ofelia Barrón, Donna ISD; Second Vice-President, Melba Garcia, Rio Grande City CISD; Secretary, Bonnie Saucedo, South Texas ISD; Treasurer, Amparo Treviño, Rio Grande City CISD. For the installation, Ms. Salinas presented each officer with a heart and reminded them of the significance of their position as it relates to the heart.

My theme for this past year was “VESA...Coming together, sharing together, working together, succeeding together”. As we wind down another year, I can stop thinking of how fast time has just flown by. We had a very productive year. All members cooperated and did their part in ensuring that each activity that we had was a huge success. In order for any organization to have success, it must have the support from its members. VESA members have supported VESA with their time, talents and dedication. There are not enough words that can express my gratitude to ALL of the VESA members for making my theme become a reality. With changes in our educational system and changes in our economy, it is getting harder for us to accomplish many things. It is imperative that we adjust to the daily challenges and changes that we face and adapt to the evolving needs of the students and staff in our respective districts. Each of us must set our own goals to become better educational support staff; whether it means expanding our education by going back to school, taking STEM courses, attending workshops and seminars, or just familiarizing ourselves with the newest technology and changes that are placed in our path. Remember, regardless of our age or ability, we can never stop learning.

VESA will take a break for the summer. Several members will be attending Summer Work Conference in Houston. VESA will be actively participating in the TESA awards this summer. Patty Garcia, Weslaco ISD has applied for the Lorene Roby Rogers Memorial Scholarship; we have submitted our Handbook and Newsletter (The VESA Express) for competition; and I have been nominated for the Nelda Van Dyke Award. Best of luck to VESA and its members at Summer Work Conference.

My first term as President was good...and with the continued support of all of our members, I look forward to having a great second term!

It's Not Over Until The Final Bell Rings!!!

By Irma Ford

We all have our own personal opinions about one thing or another and here is an example – [Texas House of Representatives](#) “Texas House Speaker Straus declares 81st Legislative Session a Success”; [Texas State Senate](#) “Regular Session ends, but special looms.” These are the headlines from the Texas Legislature online at www.legis.state.tx.us/. If we were grading what they did during this session, they have failed on several subjects and that is why they are probably going to go back to “summer school” to finish their assignments.

This was the 81st session since Texas entered the Union in 1845; they stayed in session for 140 days, starting January 13, 2009 – June 1, 2009 until the next session in 2011. The Senate and House both approved many good bills but certain important issues were left on the table. So the Governor will probably call a special session for our lawmakers.

Excerpt from the Texas Senate News:

“Legislation that would have preserved the Texas Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Insurance died in the House during the parliamentary stalling that took place in the final days of the session. The Senate later approved a “safety net” bill, one that would continue TxDOT and TDI for four more years, but the House couldn’t push that measure through. Monday, the House amended a bill to continue those two agencies for two more years, in an effort to stave off a special session. When that measure came over to the Senate, many Senators, including

the bill’s sponsor Bryan Senator Steve Ogden, didn’t agree with the parliamentary tricks the House used to extend agency deadlines. “It’s preposterous to say that a technical correction to the funds consolidation bill, is the safety net bill for all these agencies to not go into sunset,” said Ogden. “I thought it was kind of dishonest and I thought it was kind of an insult to the quality of work we’ve done over here.”

Senators might still have accepted the measure, had the House passed a bill that would have given about \$2 billion in bonding authority to TxDOT. The House, however, suddenly adjourned their session without approving the bonds, leaving some Senators scratching their heads and others condemning them as irresponsible. “The House’s actions wreck the TxDOT budget,” said Ogden. “Without passing the authorization issuing those bonds they basically wrecked their budget. It’s not right.”

The Senate adjourned their own session without approving the measure to extend the sunset dates on TxDOT and TDI. This, said some Senators, practically guarantees a special session to deal with these important issues. Should the governor not call a special session, TxDOT and TDI would cease to exist on September 2, 2010. Until that time, both agencies can conduct business as usual, giving the governor plenty of time to mull if and when to call a special session.”

The 2010-2011 biennium budget was approved, health and human services spending

for the next biennium increases 10 percent. Significant elements in the budget are: (www.house.state.tx.us/news/release May 29, 2009)

- \$1.9 billion increase in public education funding
- \$1.2 billion increase in higher education
- \$264 million boost in higher education financial aid
- \$2 billion in General Obligation Bonds to construct more highways
(It also reduces diversions from Fund 6 by more than \$375 million.)
- \$208 million increase in General Revenue to increase community service options for our most vulnerable disable populations
- \$450 million in General Obligation bonds to affirm our commitment to making Texas a leader in the research of cancer treatments and a possible cure
- \$782 million in GO Water Bonds

Notable bills of the 81st Texas Legislature

News 8 Austin - 6/1/2009 4:42 PM

By: Associated Press

A look at some bills that made it, and some that didn’t, in the regular session of the 81st Texas Legislature.

Passed, signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry
—Wrongful Convictions: Increases compensation for those who were convicted and sent to prison for crimes they did not commit.

—Texas Movies: Expands the ability of the state’s movie and film office to grant financial

incentives to lure productions to Texas.

—Hurricanes-Electricity: Allows utilities to issue low-cost bonds to recover costs after hurricanes and other disasters, reducing the financial impact to electricity customers for rebuilding and restoration.

—Journalist Shield Law: Provides limited immunity to journalists from having to testify and reveal confidential sources and documents in court.

—Interior Designers: Prohibits someone not licensed or registered with the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners as an interior designer from using the title “licensed interior designer” or “registered interior designer.”

—Crossbow Hunting: Allows all hunters, not just disabled hunters, to use crossbows during bow hunting season. Crossbows already were allowed during open hunting season.

—Military Kids: Makes it easier for children of transferring military members to enroll in new schools by allowing Texas to join an interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children.

—University Expansion: Allows for the expansion of Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Texas A&M University-San Antonio and University of North Texas at Dallas campuses as stand-alone institutions; removes barriers to the use of tuition revenue bonds for expansion.

Passed, becoming law without governor's signature

—Booster Seats: Requires that children under age 8 be secured in a booster seat when riding in a passenger vehicle. Raises the current age limit from 4.

Passed, heading to Texas voters

—Eminent Domain: Allows Texas voters to decide whether to amend the state constitution to place some limits on when governments can take private property.

Passed, awaiting action by governor

—State Budget: A \$182 billion two-year spending plan that includes \$12 billion in federal economic stimulus money pays for scores of state services but covers mostly education and health care.

—Supplemental Budget: A \$2.4 billion package to cover unexpected costs in the current state budget, including money for the Hurricane Ike-ravaged University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

—Top 10 Percent: Scales back the law allowing automatic college admissions for students in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class.

—Disabled Veterans: Provides homestead property tax exemptions for disabled veterans.

—Human Trafficking Civil Penalties: Allows victims of human trafficking to sue their traffickers and seek punitive damages from the traffickers and the organizations involved.

—Human Trafficking Prevention: Establishes a task force to come up with policies and procedures to prevent and prosecute human trafficking, sometimes referred to as modern-day slavery.

—Teen Tanning Bill: Bans anyone under 16.5 years old from using a tanning bed.

—Smokeless Tobacco Tax: Changes the tax on chewing tobacco to a weight-based system in order to fund a medical school loan repayment program for doctors who work in

underserved areas. Includes tax break for small businesses.

—Business Tax: Gives tax break to some 40,000 small businesses by raising the franchise tax exemption from \$300,000 in revenue to \$1 million.

—State Schools: Increases oversight and security of the state's large institutions for people with mental disabilities.

—Electronic Textbooks: Allows school districts to purchase approved electronic textbooks and materials.

—Military Tuition: Expands tuition exemptions for Texas military veterans and their spouses.

—UNT Law School: Allows the University of North Texas at Dallas to establish a new public law school.

—School Accountability: Changes high school graduation and grade promotion requirements; requires students to pass standardized tests to be promoted to the next grade but reduces some of the high stakes currently connected to the testing.

—School Supplies: Adds backpacks and school supplies to the annual August sales tax holiday weekend that already includes clothing purchases.

—Juvenile Prisons Review: Continues the state juvenile prison system operations for at least another two years; keeps the Texas Youth Commission and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission separate agencies until another review in 2011.

—Tier One Universities: Creates funding pools and incentives for emerging research

Legislative Update

universities to advance to nationally recognized Tier One schools.

—Rodeo Kids: Requires children to wear a helmet and protective vest when bull riding in a rodeo.

Failed

—Voter ID: Would have required Texas voters to present photo identification or two non-photo alternative forms of ID before casting a ballot.

—Casino Gambling: Would have allowed Las Vegas-style casinos, slot machines at race tracks and casinos on American Indian reservations.

—Smoking Ban: Would have imposed a statewide ban on smoking in most public indoor spaces, including bars and restaurants.

—Smoking Age: Would have raised the legal age limit to buy tobacco products from 18 to 19.

—Needle Exchange: Would have allowed public health officials to establish a needle exchange program, permitting people to hand in dirty needles in exchange for clean ones.

—Abortions-Sonograms: Would have required doctors to offer an ultrasound to women seek-

ing abortions and let them see the results if they wanted to.

—Guns on Campus: Would have allowed concealed handgun license holders to bring their guns to college campuses.

—Guns to Work: Would have allowed people to carry firearms to work and then store them in their parked vehicles outside.

—Strip Club Fees: Would have imposed a new admissions tax on sexually oriented businesses and repealed a \$5-per-person admission fee on strip clubs that a judge ruled unconstitutional.

—Medical Marijuana: Would have permitted use of marijuana for medical purposes.

—Government Employee Birth Dates: Would have exempted government employees' birth dates from release under open records law.

—Sobriety Checkpoints: Would have allowed police to set up sobriety roadblocks in large counties and cities.

—Mercury Warnings: Would have required fish markets and grocery stores to post signs warning pregnant women that certain fish could contain high levels of mercury that can cause birth defects.

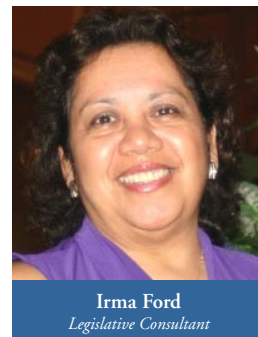
—Puppy Mills: Would have regulated dog and cat owners who keep and breed many animals, cracking down on poor conditions in so-called puppy mills.

So whether the Governor calls a special session or not, if they meet again, it will cost the taxpayers at least \$2 million. Not too smart when most of us are on a tight budget.

As summer approaches, all we can hope is that our lawmakers will put their special interests aside and work together not only for Texas but for Texans.

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."

Vincent T. Lombardi



Irma Ford
Legislative Consultant



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2009 NAEOP

2009 National Association of Educational Office Professionals

Conference and Institute - Bloomington, Minnesota - July 20-24, 2009



Seated first row left to right: Wendy Klentzman, Linda Sockwell, Gerald Wharton, MaryAnn Hollingsworth, Betty Ruth Wilson - Second row: Sherry Howell, Sue Hand, Jana Worthington, Wanda Honeycutt - Third row: Debbie Wade, Debbie McFadden, Shirley Haswell, Darcy Blackstock, Patti Walling



TESA President MaryAnn Hollingsworth carrying the Texas flag during the flag ceremony

2009 National Association of Educational Office Professionals

Conference and Institute - Bloomington, Minnesota - July 20-24, 2009



MaryAnn Hollingsworth, TESA President 2008-2009 pinning Gerald Wharton, TESA President 2009-2010



The TESA Connection won first place for The Rachael Maynard Award for Excellence in Communication - Left to right: MaryAnn Hollingsworth, TESA President; Wendy Klentzman, TESA First Vice President/Editor; Linda Sockwell, NAEOP Immediate Past President, Past TESA President; Linda Tribble, NAEOP President



MaryAnn Hollingsworth, TESA President Accepted the first place award for the TESA Web Site for Janie Giddens

**Membership Form
for the
National Association of Educational Office Professionals**

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| Membership Type: | <input type="checkbox"/> | Active - \$45 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retired - \$25 | |
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Membership Application Continuous Membership (12 full months)

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-All fees must be paid in U.S. Dollars
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-Active membership fees include a one-year subscription to the associate magazine.
-Dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

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2009 TESA FALL WORK CONFERENCE “A Beehive of Activities” November 12 –15, 2009



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“Buzzily” make your plans to attend
TESA's 60th Annual Fall Work Conference
in beautiful San Marcos.

A fabulous opportunity for Renewal, Wisdom and Loyalty!

Fall Work Conference offerings:

- ★ STEM Sessions (Nov. 12-14)
- ★ Keynote Speakers
- ★ Breakout Sessions
- ★ Exhibits
- ★ **“Salute to Our Loyal Troops”** Banquet
Saturday 14, November 13 (6:00 – 10:00 pm)
Donations of international phone cards will be given to local military offices for our troops. *(Dress attire for the banquet will be Sunday best or semi-formal or business/office attire. If you have sons, husbands, daughters or family members in the military you may want to consider wearing the respective color of the branch of service).*
- ★ **Let it “Bee” Time for Renewal, Wisdom and Loyalty**
President's Luncheon
Saturday, November 14 (12:15 – 1:30 pm)
- ★ **“Beehive”** General Membership Meeting
Sunday, November 15 (9:00 – 10:30 am)
- ★ Business casual attire is appropriate for all daytime sessions.

Your Busy Bee Committee Members

MaryAnn Hollingsworth, Conference Chairman
mh70@txstate.edu

Janie Giddens, Registration Chairman
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Irma Ford, Social Chairman
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Darcy Blackstock, Exhibits Chairman
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