



THE TESA CONNECTION

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

VOLUME LXIX, NUMBER 4 – SUMMER 2019

From the President | Darcy Blackstock, CEO



The words from an Otis Redding's song, "Sittin' On the Dock of the Bay", come to mind as the end of another TESA year approaches in the near future. The phrase, "Watchin' the tide roll away", is a perfect example of the ebb and flow of a year in this magnificent organization. My tide rolled in last August filled with

excitement, wonder, and amazement with a wide-eyed approach to the numerous actions and events to unfold.

This year did not disappoint as TESA rolled along with two Area Workshops, Consultant Training in both the north and south central areas of the state, and an extensive review of the Bylaws culminating in approved revisions to keep TESA moving forward with business proceedings. In addition, this Board was able to maintain a positive net profit each month continuing our financial stability. The "Hooked on Professional Development" Summer Work

Conference provided for an outstanding four days of learning, networking, connecting and serving in uncharted waters, Bryan-College Station. This year's expedition includes President Elect Enax and me attending the NAEOP Conference in Boise, Idaho where a TESA tradition of pinning the incoming President will take place.

Now, as the tide makes its turn, so goes the end of this amazing year as TESA President. I thank my God for guiding me in this journey each step of the way and my family and dear friends for their encouragement and support. My sincerest heartfelt appreciation and thanks is extended to the most amazing Executive Board and Committee members and of course every TESA member that I corresponded with or actually met face to face. Because of you, I am truly blessed with many memories to reflect on, as I will soon find myself "Sittin' on the dock of the bay, watchin' the tide roll away" remembering to Believe, Bless and Become.

Dates to Remember

2019

September 10, 2019
TESA Connection Deadline (Fall Issue)

October 16, 2019
National Bosses' Day

November 20, 2019
TESA Connection Deadline (Winter Issue)

November 30, 2019
TESA Volunteer Form Deadline

2020

January 30, 2020
TESA Connection Deadline (Spring Issue)

April 20-24, 2020
Administrative Professionals Week

May 30, 2020
TESA Connection Deadline (Summer Issue)

June 22-25, 2020
TESA Summer Work Conference
The Brazos Center/Hilton Garden Inn
Bryan/College Station, TX

From the Editor | Ofelia Barrón, CEOP - Donna ISD



Welcome to the Summer issue of the TESA Connection newsletter.

Wow, where has the year gone? It seems like just a couple of months ago we were working on the Fall issue of the *TESA Connection* and now you are reading our final issue for the year.

The theme that we selected for the final issue for the year is **“Be Blessed with Professionalism by Becoming Involved.”** I am sure that our membership was blessed by attending events that TESA had to offer throughout the year and at Summer Work Conference. I hope that by attending some of these events, they have sparked your interest in TESA and you will be stepping up and getting involved in the near future.

At this time, I would like to thank my committee, Connie Holland, Asst. Editor, Sherry Gray, Advertising Manager and Wanda Honeycutt, Proofreader for all their hard work and dedication in assisting and assuring we produced great issues for our membership. I would also like to thank Darcy Blackstock, TESA President and Marie Enax, TESA President-Elect for their guidance and at the same time thank Mr. Dwight Voth, from Mennonite Press for his assistance and expertise with the issues of the TESA Connection.

I hope our membership enjoyed reading the articles that were showcased throughout the year as much as I enjoyed gathering and preparing all information to pass on to Mennonite Press.

May God continue to bless all of our TESA members as we will soon be preparing to start off a new school year.

Purpose Statement

We the members of the Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc. hold that the primary purpose of the educational support staff association is to assist, as a team member, in developing citizens who will safeguard, strengthen and improve America. The TESA Connection is published four times a year – fall, winter, spring and summer. Member fees include four online issues of the association newsletter. If you wish to receive all four issues in print, you will need to sign up for an annual newsletter subscription in addition to your annual membership. Newsletter Annual Subscription is \$10. Send request for subscription to: TESA Central Office, PO Box 11825, Killeen, TX 76547.

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Don't forget our website at <https://www.tesatexas.org>

Also, follow us on twitter and facebook.

 TESA @tesatexas

 Texas Educational Support Staff Association

Membership



Where has this school year gone?! Summer is here, school is out and the TESA Summer Work Conference was another successful fun event for all attendees. Hope you were one of them. Just because the school year has ended, your TESA membership has not. Everyone who joined TESA is a member until July 31, even if you joined when you registered for Summer Work Conference. The TESA membership year begins on August 1 and continues through July 31. When you join after August 1 your membership is considered expired until you pay your dues. To keep current on all the happenings in TESA, be sure to renew your membership on August 1, 2019.



Mark your calendar now to renew your TESA membership on time!

You do not want to miss a thing!

Affiliate Services

TESA wishes to thank the following groups for joining/renewing their Affiliation with TESA for the 2018-2019 school year:

Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association (BVESA)
Garland Educational Support Staff Association (GESSA)
Harlingen Educational Support Staff Association (HESA)
Irving Association of Educational Office Professionals (IAEOP)
Killeen Educational Support Staff Association (KESA)
Lamar Consolidated Educational Support-Staff Association (LCESA)
Mesquite Educational Paraprofessionals Association (MEPA)
Odessa Association of Educational Support Personnel (OAESP)
Richardson Educational Support Staff Association (RESSA)
Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association (VESA)
Spring Branch Educational Support Association (SBESA)
TESA Past Presidents Association
Tomball Educational Support Staff Association (TESSA)



Become a TESA Affiliate (or renew your status), join us and be part this great association!



Renew/Join Now

What's in it for YOU?

- Assistance and/or guidance available from TESA (some onsite consulting services are available for a fee)
- A discount (up to 25%) when hosting STEM Training
- The opportunity to have a TESA representative available to conduct your leadership installation
- TESA web site at www.tesatexas.org for up-to-date information

Believe In Yourself and Get Involved!

Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP, TESA Past President

When I was asked to write an article for the TESA Connection, I thought long and hard as to what I could write about. It didn't take too long to have my "ah-ha" moment. I would write about getting involved.

While attending the 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference (SWC), I saw so many first timers who were meeting new people, learning new things and most importantly, showing such excitement about being at the SWC. This is just what TESA needs, the love and commitment to something a person loves.

All of us have something to share with others, whether it is a creative talent or just the willingness to help out. All it takes is taking the first step and volunteering. You may be a little shy about volunteering to help, whether in TESA or any other organization, but just think of the rewards you will receive. We should never help with the intentions of someone repaying the favor and helping us. We should help because it's the right thing to do.

I have been a TESA member for about 30 years. For the most part of my membership in TESA, I was "just" a member. I paid my yearly dues, attended Fall and Summer Work Conferences, and Area Workshops, but that was my extent of my involvement. In 2009, I was asked to serve on the Awards/Scholarship/Journalist committee, this would be the start of my "true" involvement with TESA. The following year I was asked to run for Member-at-Large; I did not win that election but was asked to serve as the Registration Chairman for the Fall Work Conference. Many people asked me if I was upset that I didn't win, "I said no," it was not in His plan for me to win. You see, when I was asked to run, I was hesitant because I didn't think I had the knowledge and ability to serve TESA well. After some talking to, I accepted and placed it in God's hands.

If it was meant to be, so be it. If it wasn't meant to be, I would still continue helping TESA because I was hooked. As most of you know, the rest is history. I ran the following

year and won and then continued to work my way up to being elected TESA President. Was being TESA President a goal of mine? No, it was not. My only intent was to help TESA in whatever way I could. I still believe in that. However, I can honestly say that serving as TESA President was extremely rewarding and humbling at the same time. It is a year that I will always treasure in my heart!

You may not have any intentions of running for the TESA board at this time. You can always start by volunteering to serve on a committee.

If you feel you're still not ready for that, there are many ways you can volunteer your time or talents to help. Just reach out to any of the board or committee members, they'll be glad to help you out.

When you volunteer, you will discover that using your talents will help you achieve any goal that you set. Don't underestimate yourself...BELIEVE in yourself! Accept the help and constructive criticism from others who have been there before. Learn from them and from your mistakes. Yes, from your mistakes. You see, none of us are perfect. We have all made

mistakes and you will make mistakes and that's ok, just learn from them.

So you see, if I can do it, so can you! All it takes is for you to Believe in Yourself; use your talents that you have been Blessed with and Become the best that you can be!



Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc.

PROFIT AND LOSS
August 2018 - June 2019

	TOTAL		TOTAL
Income		85511 NAEOP Affiliate Dues	97.80
40125 SWC-Registrations	19,418.77	85810 Central Office Expenses	529.31
40325 SWC-Exhibits	750.00	86110 Rent-Office	5,500.00
40725 SWC-President's Lunch	5,460.00	86410 Rent-Equipment	1,071.70
40925 SWC-Banquet	8,580.00	86710 Bank/Credit Card Fees	1,446.11
41925 SWC-Other Income	3,358.00	87310 Audit & Accounting	2,784.70
42030 STEM-Billings	11,344.08	87910 Website Maintenance	3,870.02
42230 SWC STEM Sessions	6,429.07	88110 Telephone/Internet	1,427.27
42530 STEM-Consultant Training	150.00	88410 Postage	206.39
42630 STEM-CEOP Application	360.00	88710 Property/Sales Tax	171.01
46010 Membership Dues	23,685.50	89910 MISC/Awards/Legislative	640.55
46210 Affiliation Dues	1,310.75	Total Expenses	\$59,492.24
46300 Newsletter Subscriptions	90.00	NET OPERATING INCOME	\$25,407.64
47110 Contributions-LRR Scholarship	719.50	NET INCOME	\$25,407.64
47710 Contributions-Founders Scholarship	826.50		
48110 Area Workshop-Registrations	270.00		
48310 Sales-TESA Novelties	187.00		
48710 Interest Income	43.21		
49000 Donations	675.00		
49999 Credit Card Surcharge	1,242.50		
Total Income	\$84,899.88		
GROSS PROFIT	\$84,899.88		
Expenses			
50525 SWC-Facility/Equipment Rental	6,976.00		
50925 SWC-Committee Expenses	402.08		
51325 SWC-Meal Functions	7,084.84		
51525 SWC-Social Events	500.00		
53325 SWC-Printing	34.10		
54925 SWC-MISC	2,470.00		
60230 STEM-Consultant Honorarium	6,648.05		
60430 STEM-Committee Expenses	123.85		
60830 STEM-Workbook/Publications	1,455.00		
61230 STEM-SWC-Consultant Expenses	1,800.00		
61530 STEM-SWC Sessions Expenses	495.00		
62130 STEM-Postage	56.01		
81110 Salaries & Wages	5,693.28		
81310 Payroll Tax Expenses	3,607.55		
81910 Insurance	842.00		
82410 President-Elect Expense	300.00		
83310 NAEOP Conference	690.00		
83510 NAEOP Office/Marion Wood	50.00		
84510 Founders Scholarship Expenses	600.00		
84610 Magazine/Newsletter Expenses	1,819.62		
84910 Content/Bond Insurance	100.00		



2019 Summer Work Conference Review



The 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference came to a close on Thursday, June 20th. It was “O’fishally” another successful conference. The SWC committee would like to thank everyone who came and participated at our new fish camp and fishing hole in Bryan/College Station, the perfect setting for a new fishing journey!

We would also like to thank the following <> the Hilton Garden Inn hotel and staff <> the Brazos Center and staff <> Texas Country Catering and staff <> Mesquite ISD <> Lone Star College <> Texas A&M University <> Blinn College <> Channelview ISD <> TESA Board, Committee Members, Past Presidents and Retirees <> SWC Advisory Board Members and Supervisors <> Awesome Extended and Breakout Presenters <> Fantastic STEM Consultants <> Our generous Vendors <> all those who donated their time, door prizes and supplies <> and of course our wonderful families!

Thank you to President Darcy Blackstock and President-Elect Marie Enax for having the confidence in our committee to head up this wonderful fishing expedition to encourage everyone to *Believe in yourself, Bless those you come in contact with and Become the best you can be!*

In addition, we want to thank all of you who responded to the survey this past fall. Using your input, we were able to acquire presenters for the main topics that were requested in the survey. We hope you had a “reel good time” and enjoyed all aspects of our conference and will plan on attending the SWC in June 2020.

Kay Riggs
Retired Pasadena ISD
Conference Chairman

Yvonne Smeltzer
Mesquite ISD
Registration Chairman

Stacy Wright
Texas A&M University
Social Chairman

Sony Simon
Lone Star College
Exhibits Chairman





TESA Awards/Scholarship/Journalist Update

2018-2019

Congratulations to all of TESA's Award and Scholarship Winners!!!



Administrator of the Year Award
Dr. Lee Alan Wright
Principal – Tomball ISD



Nelda Van Dyke Award
Dianne Lemons
Mesquite EPA



Yearbook Award
1st place – Weatherford ESA
2nd place – Richardson ESSA
3rd place – Spring Branch ESA



Newsletter Award
1st place – Rio Grande Valley ESA
2nd place – Richardson ESSA
3rd place – Spring Branch ESA

Spirit Awards
1st place – (Tie) Harlingen ESA
and Lamar CESA
3rd place – Mesquite EPA

Lorene Roby Rogers Scholarship
Awarded to
Monica Garcia – Mesquite EPA
Ivette Kite – Tomball ISD

Theme Basket Winners
Best Representing Texas – Tomball ESSA

Most Original & Creative – (Tie) Lone Star College
and Debbie Wade

Best Representing Conference Theme – Lamar CESA

Many thanks to the TESA Affiliates, Committees and individuals who donated Theme Baskets, bought 50/50 tickets and volunteered their time to help us raise money for TESA scholarships.

Sharon Mena, Chair
Terri Marfisi, Diana Rodriguez, Melissa Rodriguez
Patti Walling, Mentor

TESA Shining Brightly at the 85th NAEOP Conference



Recently, several TESA members attended the 85th annual NAEOP “Let Your Light Shine” Conference in Boise, Idaho. The week-long conference included Summit courses where attendees earned education credit and Breakout sessions that can be used for Professional Standards Program (PSP) certification, Council meetings for attendees from each level of education received training and networking designed specifically for each category, Area meetings are states grouped by geographical area and members discuss plans for the upcoming year, business meetings from the association and NAEOP Educational Foundation, presentation of scholarships and awards and the installation of the incoming NAEOP Board. A very busy but productive week where TESA and members were able to let their light shine.

Sue Hand, South Central Area Director had previously appointed Diana Rodriguez, Garland ISD, to serve as the Service Project Chairman for 2018-19 and charged her with finding a service project. Diana did a fabulous job in locating the Eagle-Garden City Club of Rotary International, District 5400 who has an annual dictionary donation to local third grade students. The South Central Area contributed \$1,462.76 to the project. Diana also secured an additional donation of \$537.24 for a total contribution of \$2,000 to ensure students in the Boise area receive a printed dictionary.

TESA members have the opportunity to serve on various NAEOP committees each year and for 2019-2020 those individuals are as follows.

Sue Hand, Lamar CISD
Affiliations & Advisory Council Chairman

Sharon Mena, Texas A&M University
Higher Education Council Chairman

Darcy Blackstock, Channelview ISD
Nominations & Elections Committee

Stacy Wright, Texas A&M University
Professional Development Program

Marie Enax, Lamar CISD
Advisory Council and Foundation Minutes
Approval Committee

Diana Rodriguez, Garland ISD
South Central Service Project Chairman

Juliana Holmes, Garland ISD
Membership Committee

We are very blessed to have these outstanding TESA representatives serving on the national level in the upcoming year.

The week culminated with the presentation of the much sought-after website and newsletter awards and installation of the 2019-2020 NAEOP Board. TESA's light shined brightly as Lisa E. Gonzalez, Web Advisor, received First Place - Professional State Website Award and Ofelia Barron, *The TESA Connection* Editor, received First Place - State Category 2 Newsletter, Rachel Maynard Award for Excellence in Communication. Congratulations to Lisa, Ofelia and *TESA Connection* committee members Sherry Gray, Connie Holland and Wanda Honeycutt for this amazing accomplishment.

TESA representatives serving in 2019-2020 on the NAEOP Board are Sue Hand, South Central Area Director and Chairman of the Affiliations and Advisory Council, Darcy Blackstock, President of the NAEOP Educational Foundation and Sharon Mena, Council Chairman - Higher Education Council. Congratulations to each of you on your election and appointment to serve on the national level and representing our organization and state.

Thank you to everyone involved in making 2018-2019 an amazing year for TESA. TESA certainly shined brightly while representing the Lone Star state at the national conference and will continue to let our light shine in the upcoming year where we will all picture the possibilities.

Killeen Educational Support Staff Association

Article submitted by: Cynthia Obregon



Killeen Education Support Staff Association (KESA) partners with Durham Ellis for our yearly fundraiser. KESA purchases and sells pecans to present each High School with a Scholarship. This year KESA provided scholarships in the amount of \$2,700.

KESA selected seven deserving recipients for Scholarships. Four of the seven recipients attended a dinner on May 13, at Cheddar's to accept their scholarships. Pictured from Left to Right: Makayla Roberts, Killeen High School (KHS) awarded \$500.00; Laiba Khan, Ellison High School (EHS) awarded \$500.00; Christopher Clement, Career Center awarded \$250.00 and Kevin Green, Harker Heights High School (HHHS) awarded \$500.00. Those

not present: Mohammad Khan, Early College High School (ECHS) awarded \$250.00, Alexia Wilkerson, Shoemaker High School (SHS) awarded \$500.00 and Haleigh Pointer awarded the Michael L. Pointer Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$200.



Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association (VESA)

Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP

VESA represented at the 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference!

Ten VESA members made their way to the new "watering hole" in Bryan-College Station, TX, for the 2019 TESA Summer Work Conference (SWC). We collectively enjoyed numerous breakout sessions as well as STEM sessions; learned and shared new ideas; rekindled long lasting friendships, and all had a wonderful time!

VESA will continue to have representation at the state level: Ofelia Barrón, Donna ISD, was elected TESA Secretary/Treasurer; Dora Elder, Harlingen CISD, will be serving on the SWC Committee; Patty Garcia, Weslaco ISD, will serve on the Membership Committee; and Lisa E. Gonzalez will serve as TESA Web Advisor and is on the Advisory Board and Nominating Committee.

The VESA Newsletter, was submitted for competition again this year – and for the second year in a row, took First Place Prize! What a way to end the year!!!

VESA Members at the 2019 TESA SWC



(Pictured left to right: Linda Chimely, Belia Solis, Patty Garcia, Mary Ann Gallegos, Lisa E. Gonzalez and Ofelia Barron; not pictured: Gaby Borquez, Andrew Chew, Dora Elder and Kathy Tijerina)



Outstanding Newsletter Plaque awarded to VESA

Tomball Educational Support Staff Association Breaks Scholarship Record

Terri Marfisi-President 2018-2019

The Tomball Educational Support Staff Association prides itself on giving back! They do this through fundraising for scholarships; and TISD Fine Arts Festival is the venue in which TESSA has their largest fundraiser of the year. It is at this festival that TESSA holds their Annual Silent Auction for Scholarships and the TESSA Snack Shack. Twelve amazing volunteers helped with this event, which proved to be the most successful year by far.

Terri Marfisi, TESSA Silent Auction Chair, was very happy with the number and variety of baskets provided for the Auction – coming in from TISD Offices, campuses, PTOs, and local community vendors. One basket that caught quite a lot of attention was the autographed Texans JJ Watt football obtained by TESSA member Tamra Pittman,

in association with First Community Credit Union-Tomball.

Member Sherry Namken chaired the TESSA Snack Shack, revamping this year's Snack Shack from the traditional concession stand. All the changes were to our benefit! Families, students and staff alike are always coming back for more of our famous Fried Oreos. Local vendors and TESSA Members donated all inventory, from popcorn to pickles.

Revenue from the Silent Auction, Snack Shack and previous fundraisers collectively enabled TESSA to award five TISD Senior Graduates and two Paraprofessional scholarships. The Scholarship awards totaled \$4,650.00 for the 2018-19 School year.



Tamra Pittman & Tami Sellens



Bridgette Manuel & Sherry Namken



JoAnn Garner, Terri Marfisi & Alan Webb

Believe In Yourself And Become Involved!

Alicia Lopez, TESA Affiliate Services

“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.”

—Christian D. Larson

I joined TESA several years ago and it took me several years to develop the confidence to get involved in TESA. It took time for me to realize my worth and all this was done with the help of my peers and my TESA family. Every year when I attend the TESA Summer work conference, I learned more on how to become a better ME

and employee of Garland ISD. I networked with paraprofessionals from other Texas school districts and built friendships and learned how to be an asset to others. TESA provides opportunities for women and men to become involved in the purpose of building confidence, knowledge and relationships. By believing in myself, I am able to contribute my knowledge and experiences with others and in turn, learn from them as well. I am thankful for the TESA organization and believe I am the person I am today thanks to the many lessons I have learned and the new friendships I have made with the TESA organization.

SAVE THE DATE



2020 Summer Work Conference

June 22 – June 25, 2020

Bryan – College Station, Texas

More information coming on the TESA website

www.tesatexas.org

Volunteer

2020-2021

TESA Needs You!!!

Volunteer for TESA's exciting

2020-2021 year by:

- Serving as a committee member
- Serving as an appointed committee chair
- Serving as an elected officer
- Volunteer for events or as needed



Visit www.tesatexas.org and complete the Volunteer Form

Any questions visit with one of the committee members listed below

Nominations Committee Members

Beth Hindman, Nominations Chair, bhindman@irvingisd.net

Felipe Campos, President Elect, felipe.campos@springbranchisd.com

Lisa Gonzalez, Past President, lgonzalez@donnaisd.net

MaryAnn Hollingsworth, Past President, mh70@txstate.edu