

THE TESA CONNECTION

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

VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 2 – WINTER 2018

From the President | Teena Hancock, CEOP, CEOE



Reflecting on my earlier commitments to you, I am reminded that it is time to review and schedule opportunities together for the outstanding offerings on the upcoming TESA professional development calendar. If you have not yet registered for one or both of the spring Area Workshops, let me encourage you to

do so:

Lamar Consolidated Educational Support Staff Association (LCESA) March 3, 2018, contact Veronica Moreno, Registration Chair, vmoreno@lcisd.org.

Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association (BVESA), March 24, 2018, contact Stacy Wright, Workshop Chair, stacyw@vpsa.tamu.edu.

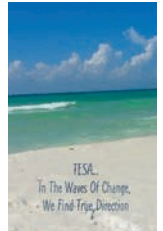
You can find complete registration information on the TESA website.

Immediately on the “ebb of another huge wave” of opportunity is the TESA Summer Work Conference –

June 20-23, 2018. In my initial dedication to provide outstanding programs for educational office professionals across the state, I can say that our SWC Committee and STEM Committee are doing an outstanding job in carrying out this pledge.

With half the year of “riding the waves” ending, I want to thank each of you for your dedication – and for your volunteering to help and support the many changes TESA has made to keep us moving forward. (Watch for the TESA board elections announcements and exercise your right to vote.) Much to do remains, but once again – TESA members have proven we can do it!

As I look forward to “beach weather,” I hope you kept your towel and beach chair handy. Planning takes a little relaxation, and these last six months of 2017-2018 will be that time. I encourage you, our TESA members, to support your board, nominations and other committees to keep “TESA Texas proud” and keep TESA strong!



Dates to Remember

February 15 to March 1, 2018
TESA Board Elections

February 25, 2018
TESA Awards/Scholarship
Submission Deadline

March 3, 2018
Area Workshop-Lamar CESA,
Rosenberg, TX

March 24, 2018
Area Workshop-Brazos Valley ESA
Texas A&M University

June 20-23, 2018
TESA Summer Work Conference
Omni Hotel, Austin TX

July 16-20, 2018
NAEOP Conference
Bloomington, MN

2018

MEMBERSHIP



Has your **TESA** membership lapsed?
Have you always wanted to join **TESA** and never did?
Well, what's stopping you....join **NOW!**
Become a **TESA** member now and join us
"In The Waves of Change, We Find True Direction"

What's in it for YOU?

- Professional growth through STEM Classes, Area Workshops and Summer Work Conference
- **TESA** web site at www.tesatexas.org for up-to-date information
- Meeting other individuals who work in the same field/department as you do and sharing ideas and building lasting relationships

Join or **renew** your membership **NOW** and have your name entered in a raffle and win one of the three (3) gift cards valued at \$30.

Eligibility requirements:

- Join or renew your membership by **April 30, 2018** and be entered into a drawing for a free **TESA** membership for the 2018-19 year.
- Recruit a new member and be entered in a raffle for a chance to win a \$30 gift card. (Your name will be entered as many times as the number of recruits you have [1 recruit – 1 chance, 3 recruits – 3 chances, etc.]

Application for Membership can be found online at www.tesatexas.org



Lisa Acosta

Membership/Affiliate Services Chairman, Comal ISD
lisa.acosta@comalisd.org

Mary Ann Gallegos, Harlingen ISD – mary.gallegos@hcisd.org

Barbara Johnson, Lamar CISD – bajohnson@lcisd.org

Juliana Holmes, Garland ISD – JHolmes@garlandisd.net

Leisa Young, Ector County ISD – lesia.young@ectorcountyisd.org

Sherry Gray, San Jacinto College – sherry.gray@sjcd.edu

From the Editor | Felipe Campos, CEOP



Greetings TESA Members – and welcome to the winter issue of the TESA Connection!

Our fall and early winter season brought **Waves of Change** to many of our TESA members in ways no one predicted. The historic floods that hit many areas of Southeast Texas created chaos in many school districts that to

this day they are still trying to recover from. This was shortly followed by winter weather that brought snow to areas that had not experienced it in years.

Gratefully, **True Direction** was found in the midst of this chaos. Examples were seen in many forms from neighbor helping neighbor to the whole state pitching in with goods or needed financial donations. This found true direction really embodied the attitude clearly stated as “Texas Strong”.

One important part that did not change is **your voice**. You can be heard by sending in articles, information about events, and what you and/or your Association are doing (include pictures if you can). But only with your input can we provide you an informative product. We look forward to hearing from you!

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 subscriptions to: TESA Central Office, PO Box 11825, Killeen, Texas 76547.

Please send information for the Winter edition to:
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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



2018-2019 Candidates for TESA Board

The 2017-2018 nominations committee would like to graciously thank all those who submitted a volunteer form. The committee is pleased to announce the following nominees as your slate of officers for the 2018-2019 TESA Board.

President Elect

- Felipe Campos, Spring Branch ISD
- Marie Enax, Lamar CISD

Vice President

- Ofelia Barron, Donna ISD

Secretary/Treasurer

- Maria Campos, Spring Branch ISD
- Yvonne Smeltzer, Mesquite ISD

Member-At-Large, Position 1

- Darla Hernandez, Mesquite ISD
- Sharon Mena, Texas A&M University

Member-At-Large, Position 2

- Juliana Holmes, Garland ISD
- Diana Rodriguez, Garland ISD

Member-At-Large, Position 3

- Lisa Acosta, Comal ISD
- Dorinda Bustamante, Comal ISD

How to Keep that January Energy All Year Long

Courtney Clark

*We commonly start each New Year with excitement, possibility, and a fresh perspective.
But what can you do when that feeling wears off by mid-February?*



Nothing feels quite so revitalizing as a fresh start, and every January 1st provides us with that possibility. We may set resolutions, or come back to work refreshed after a vacation. Perhaps we post on social media how glad we are that the previous year and all of its struggles are in our rearview mirror.

As we dive into the next few weeks feeling reinvigorated, enjoy the feeling, but realize that it won't last forever. For most of us, mid-February brings with it a backslide into old habits and old feelings. But it doesn't have to be that way. There are several strategies you can use to capture the possibility of the new year and use it to keep your motivation going all year long.

1 Create "Mini-Fresh Starts" Throughout the Year

In a study of people with moderate to severe depression, depressed individuals noted that when something incredibly good happened, it felt like a fresh start. Our brains are wired to search for patterns, because patterns help us make sense of a big world. But if we feel inundated with "bad" patterns, our lives become frustrating.

Fresh starts offer the chance to interrupt a "bad" pattern with something good. And we're actually able to create a fresh start feeling for ourselves any time we want! For some people, a thorough house- or desk-cleaning provides that sensation. For others it might be a new haircut, a new workout plan, or a weekend getaway.

Fresh starts act like dominos in the brain – they set off a chain reaction of searching for positive patterns. As you feel yourself losing your January motivation, build in a new opportunity for a fresh start every few months, and your brain will thank you.

2 Practice Calm in the Chaos

As the year chugs along, the chaotic and overwhelming feelings of everyday life start to ramp up, leaving us drained and frustrated. Chaos can have a certain protective feeling; it makes us feel like we're getting something done. But it's also one of the main reasons we lose that "anything is possible" sensation with which we started the year.

Reclaiming a sense of calm may seem impossible, but it's simply a matter of shifting your focus away from whatever is causing the turmoil. As you feel yourself getting overwhelmed, you don't have to deal with the issue at hand right then and

there. Take a deep breath. Tell the person in front of you, "I'll get back to you on that."

It's tempting to believe that solving problems quickly will help the chaos go away, but there's no prize given for making snap decisions if they aren't good decisions, so make your decisions from a place of calm, not chaos. As an added benefit, you'll probably enjoy lower blood pressure, too!

3 Include Time for Reflection

January comes with feelings of hope and possibility **not** because of a certain calendar date, but because **we** make it so. We often spend the end of our year, from Thanksgiving through the holidays, being thankful and reflecting on our gifts. We make hopeful plans for the coming year.

If that's what we do at the end of the year, it's no wonder January feels so good! But there's no reason we can't maintain that thankful and reflective attitude during other months, as well. We just have to be intentional about it.

This year, set aside time for reflection every month. Gratitude journals may seem like something only Oprah has time to do, but they've actually been proven to boost happiness, because they provide you with perspective. Goal setting is another thing we often only do once a year, but is a helpful tactic for helping you stay focused and energized.

If you can, take some time to get away and find peace. At the holidays, you spend unstructured, uninterrupted time with friends and family in a way that you might not do the other 11 months of the year, so try and recreate that experience as often as you can.

The moments when your life feels too busy to pause and reflect are often the moments you need it most. To hold on to the feeling you have right now, be sure to practice gratitude and reflection all year long, not just from Thanksgiving to January 1st.

There's no need for the anything-is-possible feelings of January to fade away by Valentine's Day. With three simple techniques, you can recapture the feelings of a fresh start any time you need them throughout the year, to keep you motivated and successful at home and at work.

Courtney Clark is the author of two books, including the soon-to-be-released "The Successful Struggle: Powerful Techniques to Achieve Accelerated Resilience." She is a three-time cancer survivor, a brain aneurysm survivor, keynote speaker, founder of a nonprofit, and a resilience expert.

CourtneyLClark.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICE PROFESSIONALS



Join NAEOP and Become the Difference!

Empowering Professional Development Opportunities

- Conferences (State, Area, and National)
- Educational Institutes and Workshops
- Leadership and Technology Skills
- Webinars
- Online Member Resources

Recognition Opportunities

- Educational Office Professional of the Year
- Educational Administrator of the Year
- National Certification (Professional Standards Program)

Networking Opportunities

- Job Alike Connections
- Website (www.naeop.org)
- Blog
- *NES Connector*
- NAEOP Social Media Sites (Facebook , LinkedIn, Pinterest, Twitter)

Other Membership Benefits

- Member and Student Scholarships
- Term Life Insurance
- Member Discounts

For more information contact:
Jill Averyhart, CEOE
NAEOP Vice President
vicepresident@naeopboard.org
www.naeop.org



National Association of Educational Office Professionals

Membership Form

Continuous Membership (12 full months) - 45 day renewal grace period - Lapse in membership may affect PSP status.

Membership Type:

- ☐ Active - \$50 New Membership
☐ Active - \$50 Renewal Membership - Membership Number _____
☐ Retired - \$30 ☐ Retired - \$50 (Renew membership at Active Fee)
☐ Associate - \$50 ☐ Institutional - \$85 ☐ Corporate - \$85

Magazine Only Subscription:

- ☐ Magazine Annual Subscription - \$40

Membership Information:

- ☐ Elementary ☐ Higher Education ☐ Retired
☐ Middle/Junior High School ☐ Administrative ☐ Other
☐ High School/Career & Technical Education ☐ Education Partners _____

Name:			
Home Address:		City:	State: Zip:
Cell Phone:		Office Phone:	Ext.:
Fax:		Email:	
School/Office:		Position:	
School/Office Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:

For Informational Purposes Only:

Age group: <input type="checkbox"/> 20-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 41-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60 <input type="checkbox"/> 61+ <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer			
Recruited by (Name):			
How did you hear about NAEOP? <input type="checkbox"/> Colleague <input type="checkbox"/> Employer <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> NES Connector <input type="checkbox"/> Local Event <input type="checkbox"/> State Event <input type="checkbox"/> NAEOP Event			

Payment:

Method of Payment: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard* <input type="checkbox"/> Visa* <input type="checkbox"/> Discover* <input type="checkbox"/> American Express* (* \$5.00 Convenience Fee for all credit/debit cards)	
Cardholder's Name:	
Billing Address for Card:	
Card Number:	Expiration Date:
Signature:	Security Code:

Mail or Fax Completed Form to:

NAEOP Attn: Membership
1841 South Eisenhower Court
Wichita, KS 67209
Fax: 316-942-7100

TESA Accepts the Challenge!



Linda Sockwell, CEOP, CEOE
NES Connector
linda.sockwell@risd.org



Debbie McFadden, CEOP, CEOE
South Central
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Darcy Blackstock, CEOP
Vice President
foundationvp@naeopboard.org

These TESA Members
Accepted the Challenge
to serve on the
2017-2018 NAEOP
Board and Committees.

Will You?



MaryAnn Hollingsworth, CEOP, CEOE
Scholarship
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From the President-Elect | Darcy Blackstock, CEOP



The past few months have been extremely busy assisting President Hancock and the TESA members with various topics and in addition learning the business side of the organization. It is truly an honor to serve in this capacity and to be able to help others.

As part of the Nominations Committee, I attended its recent meeting

to prepare the slate of candidates for the 2018-2019 TESA Board. With an overwhelming amount of volunteers, it is safe to say that TESA is in great hands with outstanding members who volunteered their service to the association. I am very blessed to serve alongside them in the coming year and look forward to TESA's future.

I am very much looking forward to visiting with our wonderful members at the upcoming Area Workshops at Lamar CISD and Texas A&M University. See you there!

AFFILIATE SERVICES



CALLING ALL TESA AFFILIATES And Potential Affiliates

Become a **TESA** Affiliate (or renew your status), join us and be part of
"In The Waves of Change, We Find True Direction" in 2017-18.
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

TESA Thanks the following groups for joining/renewing their Affiliation:

- Weatherford Educational Support Association • Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association
- Richardson Educational Support Association • Mesquite Educational Paraprofessional Association
- San Jacinto College Association of Educational Office Personnel • Garland Educational Support Staff Association
- Harlingen Educational Support Staff Association • Lamar Consolidated Educational Support Staff Association
- Odessa Association of Educational Support Staff • Pasadena Association of Educational Office Personnel
- Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association • TESA Past Presidents Association
- Tomball Educational Support Staff Association
- University of Houston Clear Lake/Educational Support Staff Association



Lisa Acosta

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Donna Sears, Cedar Hill ISD – donna.sears@chisd.net
Beth Hindman, Irving ISD – bhindman@irvingisd.net

University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) UHCL Educational Support Association (ESA)



Margaret Garcia, Caye Trahan, Wanda Honeycutt

At UHCL-ESA, we attest that this is truly a “Winter-time Edition” – even here in Greater Houston’s southeastern quadrant, closer to freezing and below as we ever want to see in our fair city! ESA continues to “Thrive on the Waves of Change,” holding our association meetings, activities, and hosting TESA STEM classes.

TESA STEM classes held so far here at UHCL are Leadership Training, Business Grammar/Letter Writing, and Basic Communication. Later this month we are offering two 3-hour classes, on Tuesday, Jan 23, 2018

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Rules for Spelling and Proofreading
12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Stress Management

Please contact Doris Buchan, our UHCL-ESA Secretary, if you need a registration form...Buchan@uhcl.edu

Our **14th Annual Supervisors’ Appreciation Luncheon** and barbecue was held on October 24, 2017, under the direction of ESA President Margaret Garcia and Laura Wilder, Event Planner/Fund-Raising Chair, and many dedicated ESA members assisting. In addition to super food, the “Main Attraction” was the “Supervisor of the Year” Award. Several ESA members wrote and submitted excellent letters of recommendation for worthy supervisors for nomination, but the first place award was unanimous for Usha Mathew, Associate VP of Finance for UH-Clear Lake (pictured below, center-holding her Award; and her assistant, Laura Wilder, who wrote the winning letter, far left, and other proud members of her staff).



December was a festive time at UHCL, and the ESA Team came through with a fun gathering on Dec 7, 2017,

for our **ESA Christmas Cookie “Sampling and Sharing”** of cookies and recipes. A “White Elephant” Ornament Exchange added the final touch to the event, attested by a few pictures at end of this article.



“Bad-Hair Days” caused by the few who tried on Officer Watts’ Santa Cap!



Photos From The UHCL ESA Supervisor's Appreciation Luncheon October 24, 2017



Tomball Educational | Terri Marfisi/2017-2018 TESSA President

Support Staff Association



The Tomball Educational Support Staff Association of 2017-18 had big plans for the new school year. Those plans included increasing membership as its number one priority. This topic was spoken about across the board among Association Affiliates at the 2017 TESSA Summer Work Conference as well. After attending the Conference I knew what I wanted to see for the future of our Tomball Association.

The TESSA Board decided we needed to bring all of our Paraprofessionals and Support Staff together in a Celebration or Kick-off format. This is when the idea of a Membership Welcome Breakfast was born. I visited with Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent of TISD asking for her support. She was instantly on board. Her support fueled my eagerness for the event to be a success.

Our TESSA Board then began to collaborate. We decided to work hard to get breakfast items donated from Community Businesses, we wanted donated gifts for new paid memberships and we certainly wanted door prizes. The entire Board worked on donations, it was a grueling task but happy to say, "It came together nicely". We had many community donors, but the one stand out was a wonderful man named James Guard, Representative for the Egg & I Restaurant located in Tomball. Out of the blue he sent me an amazing email. He heard about our event and was offering the Egg & I Restaurant to totally cater our event for free... yes I said for free. He had been looking for a way to give back to the community and he loved what our Association stood for. In addition to the wonderful breakfast, we gave



Anedny's Photography

away gift bags full of donated items as a thank you for a new paid membership and awarded many door prizes. Each attendee also received a gift donated by an Independent Consultant for Scentsy.

The food was over-the-top amazing, our Superintendent addressed and welcomed our guest, and I'm proud to say we hosted about 50 of Tomball's best Paraprofessionals and Support Staff.

I wanted to acknowledge my colleagues with a huge thank you for all their hard work on this event: Henrietta Goncalves, Vice President; Bridgette Manel, Historian; Debra Boles, Secretary; Mari Delgado, Social Media Specialist; and Trisa Richard, Treasurer.

Now Tomball's Educational Support Staff Association is 39 members strong!

Rio Grande Valley | Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP, Newsletter/Web Chairman

Educational Support Staff Association (VESA)

This new school year and new calendar year is just staring, and already it seems that time is just flying by! And I am still wondering..."what happened to 2017?" VESA members are continuing our monthly meetings, focusing on self-development not only in the workplace, but throughout our daily lives. We will continue to invite speakers to present ways to maintain this improvement throughout the semester and school year.

Under the direction of President Patty Garcia, VESA

members worked diligently to hold an awesome December monthly meeting, held on December 14 at Donna ISD, which also served as our Christmas Social. After a brief meeting, members enjoyed a nice traditional Christmas dinner of tamales, rice, beans and of course, buñuelos, as well as other baked goods. Members also joined in several fun activities, such as gift-wrapping game, guess the price, ornament on a spoon race, and charades. Everyone had a great time. As part of our community service project,

members brought supplies for our local Aurora House. The Aurora House is a licensed Special Care Facility that provides compassionate end-of-life care. This special house, with a clean and comfortable home-like atmosphere and private rooms, offers love and compassion through trained community volunteers and a staff of nursing assistants. Patients stay free-of-charge, and Aurora House does not receive money from Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, or other governmental resources. Instead, it relies on the generosity of its residents and their families, the community, and charitable organizations for support. The Aurora House has been the place where many relatives and friends of

VESA members have lived the last days of their lives. On December 19, several VESA members went to the Aurora House to deliver the donations along with a \$200 check.

VESA members are also preparing the “second-semester kick-off” with our annual raffle fundraiser. This raffle will totally consist of gift cards for various businesses. Martin Saenz, Chairman, South Texas ISD has already started gathering the donated gift cards to be ready by our January 11 meeting (and we will hold the raffle of the cards at our March 8 meeting). Already in planning stage is our 51st Annual Bosses Banquet, to take place on April 27, 2018, at the La Villa Events Center in Alamo.



December 14, 2017: VESA members present at the December Meeting/Social.



December 14, 2017: Members playing games at the Meeting/Social.



VESA members who delivered the donated goods, pictured left to right: Gracie Valdez, Donna ISD; Judy Pariser, RN BSN, Director of Education at the Aurora House; Margaret Peña-Zuniga, Donna ISD; Patty Garcia, VESA President, Weslaco ISD; Rafael Valdez, son of Gracie Valdez; Ofelia Barron, Donna ISD; Lisa E. Gonzalez, Donna ISD; Norma L. Guevara, Donna ISD; Belia Solis, Weslaco ISD.



VESA members sorting the items to make it easier to put away.



All donations sorted by category.



President Patty Garcia speaking with Judy Pariser, RN BSN, Director of Education for the Aurora House.

Weatherford Educational Support Association (WESA)



We started the year off with a booth at WISD Convocation on August 21st where we provided information on our association and registered members.

At our first meeting on October 17th, WISD Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

and Operations, Monty Chapman, addressed our members and offered his support to our association. Member Jana Worthington updated us on TESA happenings

and presented us with the 3rd Place Newsletter Award and 2nd Place Yearbook Award from the TESA summer conference. Way to go WESA!!

WESA fundraisers are off to a great start! Our members at each campus arrange Jean Days to raise money for 3 WESA scholarships for Weatherford High School students to further their education. We will also be selling Roo Jewelry this fall as an additional fundraiser.



Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc. Awards/Scholarship/Journalist Committee



Ofelia Barrón

Thank YOU!

The awards/Scholarship/Journalist Committee would like to take a moment to give a HUGE THANK YOU to the following affiliates for their donations.

- ★ Harlingen Educational Support Association
- ★ Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association

We love being a part of an organization who takes the initiative to show their support by contributing to the numerous awards and scholarship opportunities offered to TESA members, Administrators, and children/grandchildren of TESA members.

It not too late to have your affiliation contribute. Download the *Scholarship Donation* form on the (TESA) website at www.tesatexas.org and submit the form along with your donation to our TESA Central Office via regular mail.

AND don't forget to apply for any scholarship and awards before the deadline passes!!

For more information contact:

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Visit the TESA website at www.tesatexas.org to download the applications.

DUE:
FEBRUARY
25TH

1 Scholarships

- ★ Lorene Roby Rogers Memorial Scholarship
- ★ Dr. Michael Zolkoski Technology Scholarship
- ★ Founders Scholarship

2 Awards

- ★ Newsletter of the Year
- ★ Yearbook of the Year
- ★ Spirit Award

3 Administrator of the Year

- ★ Awarded to an administrator from a current TESA affiliate

4 Nelda Van Dyke Award

- ★ Awarded to a three year active TESA Member

TESA Area Workshops | Maria Campos

and Legislative Committee Winter Update



Greetings TESA Members, registration information announcements of *two area workshops scheduled so far* are:

1. March 3, 2018 – In the Richmond/Rosenberg area, hosted by our Lamar Consolidated affiliate (LCESA). For registration information and upcoming information, see our TESA website under this link - <https://www.tesatexas.org/events-workshops/lcesa-area-workshop-save-the-date>.

2. March 24, 2018 – At Texas A&M University, hosted by our newest affiliate, Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association (BVESA). Their registration information can be found at our website under the following link - <https://www.tesatexas.org/events-workshops/bvesa-area-workshop-save-the-date>.

On the Legislative Front – Here are some items that may be of interest to you.

Texas School Finance Commission Holds First Meeting 01.23.2018 — The school finance commission created by HB 21 from the summer 2017 special legislative session met for the first time Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

Sen. Paul Bettencourt kicked off the meeting by touting Gov. Greg Abbott's recent property tax proposal and the need to reign in local government spending. Rep. Dan Huberty noted that property tax relief is not possible without also addressing school finance and that the state's share of funding public schools has dipped below 38 percent. Rep. Ken King reminded the commission that property wealth doesn't always equate with the wealth of students served, and commission member Nicole Conley Johnson, who is the chief financial officer for Austin ISD, noted that Austin ISD will send the state more than a half-billion dollars in recapture payments.

Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Craig Enoch discussed the legal framework of the school finance system and noted that student outcomes are key. He noted that the CEI was outdated and that more funding doesn't necessarily equate to student improvement. Lloyd Potter, the state demographer, provided an overview of the changing demographics in Texas.

Commissioner of Education Mike Morath provided information on student outcomes and stressed the correlation of pre-K and student performance. Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes testified that additional pre-K funding is needed, and on the profound impact poverty has on student learning.

The commission is scheduled to meet again February 8 and 22.

AG Issues Opinion Related to the Use of District Funds to Promote Voting

Today Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued an opinion related to the authority of school districts to spend public funds to provide transportation to and from polling places for students and employees and the use of school district funds to work for a particular candidate or measure.

The summary of the opinion states:

Absent an educational purpose in providing students transportation to the polling locations, a court would likely conclude that the transportation serves no public purpose of the school district and therefore violates article III, section 52(a) of the Texas Constitution.

If a school district employee has no responsibility or duty to perform on behalf of the school district at the polling location, a court would likely conclude that a school district's funding of transportation to the polling location for that individual serves no public purpose of the school district and therefore violates article III, section 52(a) of the Texas Constitution.

Section 11.169 of the Education Code prohibits a board of trustees of a school district from using public funds to work for a particular measure or candidate. In addition, subsection 255.003(a) of the Election Code makes it a criminal offense for an officer or employee of a school district to knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising. A court would likely conclude that the use of public funds to link an Internet website promoting a specific candidate or measure is itself a communication supporting or opposing a candidate or measure in violation of this provision.

STEM Committee Update–Winter | Eva Zamora



The STEM committee conducted successful Consultant in Trainings (CIT) at Lamar CISD (Nov 11 & Dec 2, 2017) and Mesquite ISD (Feb 3, 2018). We have scheduled more CITs for Mesquite ISD on February 24, 2018 and Lamar CISD on March 3, 2018. Other CITs at different locations

are being planned. Information will be placed on our TESA website when finalized.

We are currently planning a “tidal wave” of a celebration at a graduation ceremony for CEOP recipients. Please plan on joining us for this momentous ceremony being held during our 2018 Summer Work Conference (SWC) in Austin.

We hope that everyone received many waves of blessing this past holiday season.

TESA
PO Box 11825
Killeen, Texas 76547

2018 Summer Work | Marie Enax, SWC Chair Conference Committee



Greetings from the 2018 SWC Committee. Our Committee has been working feverishly on numerous tasks to get ready for the conference.

Dorinda has been compiling a list of all the vendors that are interested in showing at the SWC and working on updating the exhibitor's letters, contract and agreement to send out in the middle of January. If you know of a vendor interested, please email Dorinda at Dorinda.Bustamante@comalisd.org

Diana Rodriguez has this to share, "As your social chair I have been making waves to ensure that you will have a splash of a good time at conference. Join us Wednesday evening for a "Night on the Beach" as we catch up with old friends and

make new ones."

In order to increase attendance, Sue Hand is getting ready to challenge the fifty 2017 SWC First Timers to bring a 2018 First Timer to conference in June. The 2017 First Timer's name will be entered in a drawing for a free conference registration fee.

I have been contacting presenters for extended and breakout sessions. I am excited about some of the sessions we will be offering at conference and cannot wait to share them with you in the spring.

Marie Enax, Sue Hand, Diana Rodriguez & Dorinda Bustamante, SWC Committee 2018