



# The TESA CONNECTION

The Official Publication of the Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc.

Volume LXX, Number 2—Winter 2019

## From the President

Greetings TESA Members,

Well, after anxiously awaiting the fall weather - when it finally arrived, we were able to enjoy it for a couple of weeks. Then here came the winter roaring in! Nowhere else but Texas can one experience four seasons in one month.



The theme for the winter issue is **“Great Minds Working Together for TESA,”** which brings to mind my logo, Mind, Seeds, Grow & Service. Think of your subconscious mind as the soil in which you plant your garden, in which the soil offers a foundation for seeds to grow and take root. However, the soil does not discriminate so all forms of plants or weeds will grow. Your conscious mind is your everyday mind, and contains the thoughts you hear, see, and that which you eventually do. In our garden, your conscious mind would be the seeds, and each of your thoughts is a seed. We must be mindful and skillful which seeds we plant and how we nurture them. Simply step back and observe, and be reminded that you can grow beautiful flowers by planting seeds of positivity and nourish with encouraging self-talk. Also, remember that you have the power to weed out any growth of negativity and to choose what grows and what does not.

The TESA Executive Board, committees and members are an excellent example of great minds working together for TESA. We all strive to bring out the best in others and ourselves. The board and committee members have been working tirelessly to bring opportunities for self-development, persuading members to volunteer, recruiting new members and affiliates, enlisting affiliates to host a TESA Workshop, publishing an excellent issue of the Newsletter and planning a Summer Work Conference, which will be held in Bryan-College Station in June 2020. I encourage everyone to read the newsletter to see how all the board, committees, members and affiliates are all working together for TESA.

I am hopeful that everyone had a restful, safe winter break, with time off to rejuvenate you for the upcoming semester.

Again, to leave you with a quote— *“Minds are like flowers; they open only when the time is right.”* Stephen Richards

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### Dates to Remember

**Jan. 30**—TESA Connection Deadline (Winter Issue)

**Feb. 15**—Online Voting Begins

**Feb. 25**—Awards & Scholarship Applications Due

**Mar. 1**—Online Voting Ends

**Mar. 9-13**—TESA Office Closed (Spring Break)

**Mar. 24**—TESA Connection Posted Online

**April 10**—TESA Office Closed (Good Friday/Easter)

**June 22-25**—Summer Work Conference in Bryan-College Station

**July 20-24**—National Association of Educational Office Professionals Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

Feature Article

# Great Minds Working Together For TESA

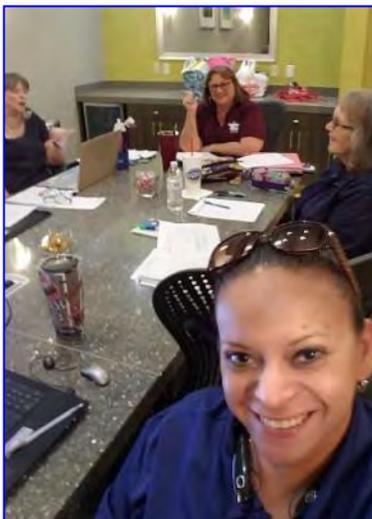
By Sue Hand, CEOP



Recently many of us were wearing our favorite Astros attire, staying up late, binge eating, biting our nails, and experiencing the thrill of the victories, and the agony of the defeats. The Astros and Nationals played at least 75 games after their season began in February with spring training. Everyone knows major league sport players spend a good deal of their off-season conditioning and staying in optimum shape for the regular season. Hours of training, planning and playing are required by the manager, various coaches, trainers, as well as by the players. Collaborating over many months of hard work, the Astros and Nationals produced teams worthy of playing in the World Series.



Thankfully, none of us will be required to stare down a 100 mph baseball. At times, some of us may feel like we are standing alone at home plate, but that is truly not the case. You may not be aware that some individuals start working before or immediately after the annual conference in June. Yes, throughout the year, your TESA Board and committee members, consultants and advisers, along with affiliates are meeting timelines. Month after month, they are busily collaborating to leverage TESA's strength to maintain its professional worthiness. Through their efforts, we have numerous opportunities to network and socialize, sharing the same vision and similar goals; and our passion shines...with great minds working together for TESA.



Staying ahead of the curve ball, we must ensure our conference programs and staff development coursework are relevant for today's educational office, as well as to anticipate changes required for the future. In order to create an atmosphere essential for growth, there must be clear expectations and open lines of communication.

Each of us has the potential to ignite our members the way Springer's grand slam propelled the Astros to a win. We must have a willingness to share our resources with others. Member input is vital to keep TESA relevant, i.e., participate in surveys, attend workshops and the annual conference, and stay connected through board/committee dialogue. Networking always offers tremendous benefits from trendsetting ideas to the latest technology.

No matter which position you play for TESA, you are a vital player. You may serve on the board, coach your local affiliate, or represent TESA on the field as an individual player. There are always open positions where you can grow your mindset and skills while also benefitting the TESA team.



## TESA 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.

## TESA Connection

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 requests for subscription to:  
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Deadline for submissions  
for the next issue:  
**JANUARY 30, 2020**

## Message from the Editor

By: Sharon Mena, CEOP, CEOE—Texas A&M University

I hope you enjoy the winter issue of The TESA Connection, with our chosen theme—“*Great Minds Working Together for TESA.*” Articles in this issue highlight the collaboration of members and affiliates throughout Texas, all working together for TESA in various ways.

Locally, we saw members from the Tomball Educational Support Staff Association (TESSA), who as a team, hosted their first Area Workshop on December 7. TESSA members enlisted community support from local businesses which provided attendees with a variety of vendors for holiday shopping opportunities. The line-up for the day featured speakers, as well as other professional development choices, including breakout sessions and STEM classes.

From across the state, members of TESA’s Summer Work Conference (SWC) Committee have been working all year to create a fabulous conference June 22-25, 2020. Likewise, members of the Awards, Scholarship and Journalist Committee are ready to accept applications and nominations. These and many other TESA committees are busy throughout the year, working together for our members.

As you read this issue, I encourage you to consider how you would like to get more involved in TESA. When great minds work together for TESA, we create a stronger, more vibrant organization and enhance our individual professional growth.



## Host an Area Workshop in 2020!

### PLANT YOUR SEEDS and watch them GROW by hosting a TESA AREA WORKSHOP this year!

Hosting an area workshop is a great way to network with TESA members and other TESA affiliates, gain more professional development and STEM class opportunities.

Remember you can always partner with other affiliates. The Area Workshop Committee is here to support you by promoting your workshop in our area, by attending your event, help out onsite and anything else you need to make your workshop a huge success!

We encourage you to **set a date** and start **sowing your seeds!**

For more information, contact Stacy Wright at [stacyw@vpsa.tamu.edu](mailto:stacyw@vpsa.tamu.edu).



Area Workshop Committee: Stacy Wright, Chair; Dagmar Poteet and Lesia Young.

## Rio Grande Valley Education Support Staff Association (VESA)

By: Lisa E. Gonzalez, CEOP

Time seems to be flying by faster than ever, and I am asking myself—“What happened to 2019?” VESA members are continuing our monthly meetings, focusing on self-development not only in the workplace, but also throughout our daily lives and team building. Our goals continue to include speakers who will present ways in which we can maintain this improvement throughout the remainder of the school year. Our November 14 meeting featured Carolyn Mendiola, Superintendent for Mercedes ISD, who provided us with applicable motivation on “servant leadership.”



Andrew Chew, Mercedes ISD, presenting Carolyn Ann Mendiola, Superintendent, Mercedes ISD with a thank you gift for being our speaker at our November 14, 2019 VESA Meeting



VESA members who delivered the donated goods to Aurora House, pictured left to right: Lisa E. Gonzalez, Patty Garcia, Ofelia Barron, Trey Gallegos (son to Mary Ann), Mary Ann Gallegos, Elizabeth Casares, Belia Solis, Martin Saenz, Maricela Cavazos and Marisela Gonzalez, Community Relations/Development Coordinator for the Aurora House.

a Christmas Memory game. We ended the evening with members singing the “Twelve Days of Christmas,” and everyone enjoyed 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 at no cost to the patient. This special house offers love and compassion through trained community volunteers and a staff of nursing assistants—and provides a home-like atmosphere, with clean and comfortable private rooms. The Aurora House does not receive any form of governmental funding and relies fully on community donations to provide care for its patients. The Aurora House has been a place where many relatives and friends of VESA members have lived the last days of their lives. On December 10, several VESA members went to the Aurora House to deliver the donations, along with a \$200 check and other monetary donations from co-workers. This is the seventh year that we have been assisting the Aurora House.

VESA members are also preparing the “second-semester kick-off” with our annual raffle fundraiser. This raffle will consist of gift cards for various businesses and other prizes. With the help of the Donna ISD VESA members, Ofelia Barrón and Lisa Gonzalez (Donna ISD) are serving as Co-Chairs for this raffle. We gathered gift cards and prizes during our December meeting. On January 9, we will distribute tickets for the raffle slated for our March 12 meeting. Our culmination to this year will be the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bosses Banquet that will take place on May 1, 2020, at the Professional Learning Center at Weslaco ISD. Patty Garcia and Belia Solis, Weslaco ISD are Co-Chairs for this committee.

*Everyone is excited to see what the second part of this school year has in store for us!*





Members of the Rio Grande Valley Educational Support Staff Association present at the December 5 Meeting and Holiday Social.

## Killeen Educational Support Staff Association (KESA)

By Michelle Gerard

The Killeen Educational Support Staff Association (KESA) collected socks and underwear for the month of November for our Killeen Independent School District Homeless Awareness Response Program (HARP). HARP receives clothing donations for all ages. Socks and underwear are always needed. In place of KESA's annual toy donations, we decided to have a Sock and Underwear Drive for homeless children. What a joy it is to give to those in need.

We have boxes at different locations in KISD and a church in Killeen is also participating in our drive.



KESA members met members of the Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association for a day of shopping and fun in Waco.



Michelle Gerard and Eva Gonzalez

*Thank You KESA!  
Making a Difference  
One Child at a Time*

## Garland Educational Support Staff Association (GESSA) Service and Giving Back to Help Members Bloom

By Juliana Holmes, CEOP



GESSA is involved in a service project this year for the Genesis Women's Shelter in Garland. Natalia Alvizo, GESSA Service Project Chairman, has been in contact with Genesis, to determine their needs at this time. We will be donating needed items and other ways our members may be able to help the children. For example, in

October, we collected diapers and baby items; for November/December, we are collecting gift cards for the women to use to purchase Christmas gifts or needed items for their children. The cards, in increments of \$5, \$10, or \$25, will be from Walmart, Dollar Tree, or Target. GESSA accepted donations to purchase these cards through December 20.

In February, GESSA will host "Bowling with your Babe." This will be a "family event" to raise money towards scholarships for paraprofessionals and high school seniors. Our hope is to generate a large turnout on a Sunday afternoon, for all to enjoy bowling, family and friends, as well as to build an amazing scholarship fund!

I am so proud of all our members for stepping up and giving back to help others. Be assured that you are the key to giving a child a more enjoyable holiday season, or assisting a paraprofessional or student toward their education.



ALONE we can do so little;  
TOGETHER we can do so much  
-Helen Keller

**GET BACK ON TRACK**  
WITH YOUR  
*New Year's*  
**RESOLUTIONS**

Statistics show almost half of Americans will make New Year's resolutions, but by February, 8 out of 10 have failed.

If you have already experienced this feeling, let me help you find your WHY in life. Knowing your WHY is not the only way to be successful, but it is the only way to build lasting success. So many times in our lives, we try to prove our value and never try to determine the WHY.

Contact me today for a FREE 30-minute consultation to see how I can help you find your WHY.

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR NEW YEAR PROMO!**

[www.RobertRiza.com](http://www.RobertRiza.com)  
CALL OR TEXT 1-254-705-6153

Dr. Robert Riza  
Executive Leadership Coach

## From the Staff Training for Effective Management (STEM) Committee

By Juliana Holmes, CEOP

Great minds think alike and these great minds can help TESA to grow and blossom. Questions are a wonderful way to learn and expand our knowledge. Recently I have answered many questions about STEM (Staff Training for Effective Management) classes from paraprofessionals wanting to know what it is, how it helps them and how they can get started. It is wonderful seeing their faces light up with excitement about learning something new and improving themselves at the same time. STEM is an enjoyable way to increase your ability to work more efficiently and have more time for family and friends. Earning your CEOP (Certified Educational Office Professional) distinction will give you a sense of accomplishment and pride. Keep watching the TESA website for updates to the STEM calendar.

It would be so nice to get your Great Mind Blooming with STEM and earning your CEOP...ask us how!



Left to right: Juliana Holmes and Barbara Jennings.

Juliana Holmes, CEOP  
STEM Chairman  
[jholmes@garlandisd.net](mailto:jholmes@garlandisd.net)

Barbara Jennings, CEOP  
Area II Coordinator  
[barbobjennings@yahoo.com](mailto:barbobjennings@yahoo.com)

Texas Educational Support Staff Association, Inc.

Scholarships – for Members/Children/Grandchildren

Affiliate Awards – for TESA Affiliates

Administrator Award – for Affiliate Administrators

Member Award – for Members of at least 3 years

✓ **DEADLINE – February 25, 2020**



VISIT  
[TESATEXAS.ORG](http://TESATEXAS.ORG)

Visit [www.tesatexas.org](http://www.tesatexas.org) to view specifications and to download the applications.

Awards/Scholarship/Journalist Committee Contact Information

Diana Rodriguez – Garland ISD – [darodrig@garlandisd.net](mailto:darodrig@garlandisd.net)

Diaelva Benefield – Spring Branch ISD – [diaelva.benefield@springbranchisd.com](mailto:diaelva.benefield@springbranchisd.com)

Alicia Lopez – Garland ISD – [alopez@garlandisd.net](mailto:alopez@garlandisd.net)

## Plan Your Trip to Bryan/College Station for Summer Work Conference June 22-25, 2020

As you make your plans to attend the Summer Work Conference on June 22-25, 2020, you may want to include a little time for sight-seeing. Below are just a few sites you may want to visit.

[Texas A&M University George Bush Presidential Library & Museum](#)

[Museum of the American G.I. Brazos Valley African American Museum](#)

[Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History](#)

[Aggieland Safari](#)

[Historic Downtown Bryan](#)

The Bryan/College Station communities have many dining options to choose from. Here are just a few recommendations from BVESA members:

[Chuy's](#)

[BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse](#)

[Blaze Pizza](#)

[Napa Flats](#)

[Dixie Chicken](#)

[J Cody's](#)

[Rudy's](#)

[Los Cucos](#)

[Laynes](#)

[Raising Cane's](#)

[Maddens](#)

[Fish Daddy's](#)

[Chicken Salad Chick](#)

[Mad Taco](#)

[Caffe Capri](#)

[Cotton Patch](#)

Check out the [Experience Bryan/College Station](#) website for a list of the many restaurants and more about the community.

## Field Trip to Magnolia Silo Marketplace Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association (BVESA) by Dagmar Poteet

Who would have *thought* that a thought would grow into an idea – that would grow into an event – that would grow into a *WOW!*

That is exactly what happened when the organizing members of the Brazos Valley Education Support Staff (BVESA) had the idea to do something together that would be fun and outside a normal meeting.

The *thought* was for a few friends to go to The Silos in Waco for a fun day trip. Then the *thought became the idea* of inviting other TESA affiliates that were geographically close to meet us at The Silos.



The next *growth* was to get out invitations about the event. We designed a special flyer with all the information, and distributed it by personal email to those in the Brazos Valley and beyond.

Then the *WOW* happened—two members from Brazos Valley and eight (yes EIGHT), from Killeen showed up at the front entrance to The Silos in Waco. After coffee and pastries, the shopping began. The shoppers spent time at the Silos and then down the street to another location for more shopping and more coffee and pastries. Later, it was off to Ninfa's restaurant for great Mexican food. After lunch, the group separated, with the Killeen group in search of The Silos discount location, while BVESA members continued their shopping at Spicewood Village.

After coffee and pastries, the

BVESA is planning more *growing thoughts* in the coming months. Come grow with us!



Members of the Brazos Valley and Killeen affiliates meet in Waco, Texas for a fun day at the Magnolia Silos.



# Tomball Educational Support Staff Association (TESSA)

By Bridgette Manuel

Quickly heading into the holidays, TESSA members had an opportunity to create and design. In October, we were blessed to have Sherry Namken (TESSA Member) teach paraprofessionals how to create a succulent potted plant using an assortment of succulents, rocks and soil/sand. Everyone was able to take home their very own succulent treasure.



In November, “giving hope to others” was the theme. TESSA members painted rocks with positive words or pictures of encouragement. Once our creations are passed on to others, they will act as a “pick-me-up” and remind them that they are loved. Hopefully, that person will then pass the rock on to someone else that needs a similar message of encouragement.



*TESSA—Giving Hope to Others*



## Sowing Seeds of Creativity

By Sherry Gray

TESA has creative members growing new talents this year. Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association members have been working together creating a quilt to raise funds for scholarships. Watch for raffle tickets coming soon.

Members of Tomball Educational Support Staff Association met in November to paint rocks with positive words and pictures to pass onto others as a “pick me up” and love.

What will TESA members come up with next to enhance their lives as well as those of others we meet every day or in the future?

Let’s plant more TESA seeds and watch them grow into

*Creativity*  
IS NOTHING BUT A  
**MIND**  
*set free.*  
-TORRIE T. ASAI



**2020 Summer Work Conference**  
**TESA – Mind – Seeds – Grow – Service**  
**June 22-25, 2020**  
**Bryan-College Station**



STEM classes offered Monday thru Thursday  
Relevant Breakout Sessions  
Extended Sessions for STEM credit  
All Inclusive rate of \$225  
Hilton Garden Inn rate \$101 per night  
\$5 Breakfast Coupon  
Great Food and Great Fun!  
Excellent Vendors

**TESA Garden Party and Luncheon**  
**Flower Power Banquet and Installation**

Check [tesatexas.org](http://tesatexas.org) website for updated information

Sue Hand – SWC Chairman  
[lhand@lcisd.org](mailto:lhand@lcisd.org)

Eva Zamora – SWC Registration Chairman  
[ezamora@lcisd.org](mailto:ezamora@lcisd.org)

Terri Marfisi – SWC Social Chairman  
[terrimarfisi@tomballisd.net](mailto:terrimarfisi@tomballisd.net)

Dora Elder – SWC Exhibits Chairman  
[dora.elder@hcisd.org](mailto:dora.elder@hcisd.org)

**Secure your Vendor Booth at  
Summer Work Conference**

**Deadline: April 15, 2020!**  
Cost is only \$75.00



For the complete  
Exhibitor Packet, please  
contact Dora Elder at:  
[dora.elder@hcisd.org](mailto:dora.elder@hcisd.org)

[www.tesatexas.org](http://www.tesatexas.org)



*"TESA - Mind - Seeds - Grow - Service"*

*Conference Schedule Overview*

**Monday, June 22, 2020**

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

2019-2020 TESA Board Meeting - Hilton Garden Inn

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

Vendor Set Up - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

6:30 a.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1st Timers Session - Brazos Center

4:10 p.m. to 5:10 p.m.

2020-2021 Exec Board & Comm Orientation - Hilton Garden Inn

4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2020-2021 Executive Board Meeting - Hilton Garden Inn

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**TESA Game Night - Hilton Garden Inn**

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 24, 2020**

Registration

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

Flag Ceremony Line Up

9:35 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

General Session/ Flag Ceremony/ Keynote/ Business Meeting -

**Brazos Center**

9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**TESA Garden Party and Luncheon - Brazos Center**

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

TESA Past President's Meeting - Hilton Garden Inn

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

3:00 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.

4:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

**CEOP Practice - Brazos Center**

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**

Exhibit Hall - Brazos Center - Assembly 1

7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

8:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m.

**Awards Celebration - Brazos Center**

9:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

CEOP Graduation Celebration

Awards: Newsletter/Yearbook/Scholarships

Administrator of the Year Award

Nelda Van Dyke Award

2021 SWC Invitation and Skit

Theme Basket Drawings

Immediately following the 2021 SWC Invitation

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

TRESA Luncheon - offsite

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**STEM Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Extended Sessions - Brazos Center**

1:00 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

**Breakout Sessions - Brazos Center**

2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

**2020-2021 TESA Board/Committee Photo Session - HGI**

**Flower Power Banquet & Installation - Hilton Garden Inn**

Installation of 2020-2021 TESA Board

Incoming President's Reception for Felipe Campos

Dance

Spirit Award

Vendor Door Prizes

## Tomball Educational Support Staff Association Holds First Area Workshop

Members of the Tomball Educational Support Association (TESSA) held their first Area Workshop on December 7, 2019, at Oakcrest Intermediate School. TESSA chose as their theme: *"Come Grow with Us! Cultivating Paras, One Seed at a Time!"*



TESSA members from across the state began arriving at 7 a.m. were treated to a light breakfast before heading to their first session. The keynote speaker, Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora, Superintendent of Tomball Independent School District, delivered a motivational message for the day. The lineup for the day included STEM classes and a choice of breakout sessions. The two STEM classes were Assertiveness Training, by Debbie Wade; and Professional Growth Plan, by Barbara Jennings. Breakout sessions included "Creating a Professional Presence and How to Get the Job You Didn't Know You Wanted," by Sharon Mena; "Grow With Us, The Seasons of Our Lives", by Barbara Jennings; "Credit Coaching", by Andrew Meese and Kelly Fay; "Planting Seeds, Pulling Weeds", by Debbie Wade; and "Why Google and Dating the



Google Calendar," by Tina Niemann.

During lunch, those addressing the attendees included Marie Enax, Stacy Wright and Sue Hand. TESSA President, Marie Enax, welcomed guests and provided an update from the Executive Board. Stacy Wright, Area Workshops Chair, presented gifts of appreciation to the TESSA workshop committee. Summer Workshop Chair Sue Hand introduced the schedule for the annual conference on June 22-25, 2020, in Bryan/College Station. TESSA held a raffle for two "designer-fragrance" gift baskets.



Between the breakout sessions, attendees enjoyed Christmas shopping at the following vendors' booths: Avon, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Pampered Chef, Arbonne, Usborne Books, Wicket Spirit, Thirty-One Bags, Premier Designs Jewelry, Moore Handcrafted Woods, Sherry's Succulents, and Creek Amingy Farms. Just a sample of items for sale were: skin care items, kitchen tools, books, spirit wear, holiday items, hand warmers, homemade soaps, cheese boards and wood furniture.

TESSA members would like to express their appreciation to the many donors who contributed to the workshop's success. Generous donors included H-E-B; Papa John's Pizza; Redtop Bakery; Minuti Italian Coffee; First



Community Credit Union-Tomball; Plants for All Seasons; Brazos Valley Educational Support Staff Association; Office Depot; Velvet Harris Group/Gary Greene Realty; Wicked Spirit; Tomball ISD; Oakcrest Intermediate, and 3M.

TESSA's first workshop was a great success and we wish to thank Lisa Gonzalez, Marie Enax and Stacy Wright for their guidance and support. TESSA

committee members include Teri Baldrige, Terri Marfisi, Tamra Pittman, Bridgette Manual and Joann Garner.



**Annual Holiday Bazaar Nets \$14,000**

**Mesquite Educational Paraprofessional Association (MEPA)**



The Mesquite Educational Paraprofessionals Association (MEPA) held their annual holiday bazaar on Saturday, December 14, 2019, at Poteet High School. The event attracted more than 100 vendors with a wide selection of shopping available. The annual basket raffle was a huge hit, with the top basket selling over 900 tickets. Overall, the event was an enormous success, garnering over \$14,000. All proceeds benefit MEPA's scholarship fund for graduating seniors and paraprofessionals pursuing a degree.



MEPA President Lisa Porter and Santa. Who knows what she told him!

Committee members for the bazaar were Lisa Porter, Deloria Harmon, Yvonne Smeltzer and Debbie Faires. Additionally, to ensure everything ran smoothly, MEPA recruited volunteers—even the school's baseball and football teams! Many thanks to everyone involved who made the 2019 the most successful holiday bazaar yet.



**TESA Affiliates in Action**

|                  |              |  |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| 1/27/2020        | RESA         | Staff Development                                      |
| 1/30/2020        | SBESA        | Bosses Night   |
| 2/4/2020         | LCESA        | Meeting and Staff Development                          |
| 2/10/2020        | KESA         | Meeting  |
| 2/11/2020        | SBESA        | Board Meeting  |
| 2/19/2020        | RESA         | Bosses Banquet   |
| 3/2/2020         | SBESA        | Nominations Board/Member of the Year                   |
| 3/3/2020         | LCESA        | Meeting & Staff Development - Spring Fundraiser Begins |
| 3/7/2020         | LCESA        | STEM class   |
| 3/10/2020        | SBESA        | Board Meeting  |
| 3/17/2020        | LCESA        | LCESA Banquet  |
| <b>3/28/2020</b> | <b>LCESA</b> | <b>TESA Area Workshop</b>                              |

Affiliate Presidents: Send your events to [sharonm@tamu.edu](mailto:sharonm@tamu.edu) to be included in the next issue.



# TESA AREA WORKSHOP

March 28, 2020

Lamar Jr. High

Hosted by LCESA



*Make plans to join Lamar Consolidated Educational Support-Staff Association, for a full day of professional staff development custom designed for today's educational office professional.*



STEM Classes

Technology

3-hour breakout sessions

For more information contact:  
Marie Enax [enax@lcisd.org](mailto:enax@lcisd.org)  
Sue Hand [lhand@lcisd.org](mailto:lhand@lcisd.org)

# NAEOP ANNUAL CONFERENCE JULY 20-24, 2020 - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

For full details: WWW.NAEOP.ORG



TESA Members at the 2019 NAEOP Conference



### At A Glance schedule

| Sunday<br>7/19/2020                        | Monday<br>7/20/2020                             | Tuesday<br>7/21/2020                       | Wednesday<br>7/22/2020  | Thursday<br>7/23/2020   | Friday<br>7/24/2020  | Saturday<br>7/25/2020   |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| TBD<br>Pre-Con Meeting                     | 6:15 AM<br>Morning Walk                         | 6:15 AM<br>Morning Walk                    | 6:15 AM<br>Morning Walk   | 6:15 AM<br>Morning Walk   | 6:15 AM<br>Morning Walk  | 6 AM - 9 PM<br>Tour - Arches and Canyonlands                    |
| 1:00 PM<br>NAEOP Board Meeting             | 7 AM - 7 PM<br>Registration Open                | 7 AM - 7 PM<br>Registration Open           | 7 AM - 3 PM<br>Registration Open                                  | 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM<br>Summit 102                                 | 8 AM - 12 PM<br>Summit 103   | <p>NAEOP Executive Board, Winter Board Meeting January 2020</p> |
| 3 PM - 4 PM<br>Tri-Exec Committee Meeting  | 8 AM - 12 PM<br>2019-2020 NAEOP Board Meeting   | 8 AM - 10 AM<br>General Session            | 8 AM - 10 AM<br>Second General Session                            | 7:30 AM - 10 AM<br>Marketplace Open                             | 9 AM - 10:30 AM<br>Breakouts 801-803                               |   |
| 4 PM - 5 PM<br>Foundation Board Meeting    | 1 PM - 3 PM<br>Advisory Council Meeting         | 10:30 AM - 12 PM<br>Area Meetings          | 10:30 AM - 12 PM<br>Council Brunch<br>NAEOP Annual Meeting/Brunch | 8 AM - 9:30 AM<br>Breakouts 401-405                             | 12:30 PM - 3 PM<br>NAEOP Board Installation Luncheon and Reception |   |
| 5 PM - 7 PM<br>Executive Committee Meeting | 3 PM - 5 PM<br>Marketplace Set-Up               | 11 AM - 4 PM<br>Marketplace Open           | 12 PM - 5 PM<br>Marketplace Open<br>Hospitality Suite Open        | 9:45 AM - 11:15 AM<br>Breakouts 501-505                         | 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM<br>2020-2021 NAEOP Board Meeting                 |   |
|  | 3:30 PM - 5 PM<br>2019-2020 NAEOP Board Meeting | 12:30 PM - 2 PM<br>Member Awards Luncheon  | 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM<br>Breakouts 201-204                           | 11 AM - 4 PM<br>Hospitality Suite Open                          | Dusk<br>Valley Fireworks   |   |
|  | 5:00 PM<br>Flag Practice                        | 2:30 PM - 4 PM<br>Breakouts 101-104        | 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM<br>Summit 101                                  | 11:45 AM<br>Marketplace (winners announced)                     |  |   |
|  | 5:30 PM - 9 PM<br>Marketplace Open              | 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM<br>PSP Committee Meeting | 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM<br>Breakouts 301-304                            | 12:30 PM - 2 PM<br>Breakouts 601-604<br>Past Presidents Meeting |  |   |
|  | 6 PM - 7 PM<br>First Timers' Reception          | 5 PM - 7 PM<br>Explore Downtown SLC Tour   | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM<br>PSP Rehearsal/Photos                         | 2:15 PM - 3:45 PM<br>Breakouts 701-704                          |  |   |
|  | 7 PM - 8:30 PM<br>Meet & Greet                  | 5 PM - 8 PM<br>Hospitality Suite Open      | 6 PM - 7 PM<br>Social Hour  | Sightseeing<br>On Your Own                                      |  |   |
|  |   |  | 7 PM - 9 PM<br>PSP/Awards Banquet                                 |   |  |   |

Leadership  
Education  
Achievement  
Recognition  
Networking

Make plans to attend the NAEOP Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, UT July 20-24, 2020!

Beginning February 15<sup>th</sup>, you will be able to cast your vote for the 2020-2021 TESA Executive Board. If you are a current, paid TESA member, you have the right to vote. Please exercise your right to vote! Members will receive an email from [info@tesatexas.org](mailto:info@tesatexas.org) with a link to vote. Please ensure that this email address is white-listed in your email.

## Meet the Candidates for the 2020 – 2021 TESA Executive Board

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Sharon Mena, CEOP, CEOE**  
Texas A&M University



### VICE PRESIDENT

**Juliana Holmes, CEOP**  
Garland ISD



**Diana Rodriguez, CEOP**  
Garland ISD



### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Barbara Johnson, CEOP**  
Lamar CISD



**Yvonne Smeltzer, CEOP**  
Mesquite ISD



**MEMBER AT LARGE, POSITION 1**

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Ofelia, Barrón, CEOP<br/>Donna ISD</p> |  | <p>Sherry Gray, CEOP<br/>San Jacinto College</p> |  |
|---|---|--|---|

**MEMBER AT LARGE, POSITION 2**

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Teri L. Baldrige<br/>Tomball ISD</p> |  | <p>Stacy Wright<br/>Texas A&amp;M University</p> |  |
|---|--|--|--|

**MEMBER AT LARGE, POSITION 3**

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Dora Elder, CEOP<br/>Harlingen CISD</p> |  | <p>Eva Zamora, CEOP<br/>Lamar CISD</p> |  |
|--|---|--|---|

For more information on the candidates running for 2020-2021 Officers, check out the TESA website - [www.tesatexas.org](http://www.tesatexas.org).

Feature Article

# Working Together for TESA in Tomball ISD (TESSA)

By Tamra Pittman

There is an old expression that goes, “A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” This has been the slogan of the United Negro College Fund since 1972. This organization, also known as the United Fund, is an American philanthropic organization that funds scholarships for black students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

You may be wondering what the relevance is...

It is an example of what is at the heart of the Tomball Educational Support Staff Association (TESSA) in Tomball ISD, evidenced each school year—as we work together to reach our association’s goals.

Those goals are primarily to continue education for our paraprofessional members through area workshops and STEM classes through TESA...workshops just like the one we hosted on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at Oakcrest Intermediate School. TESSA also supports our district’s graduating seniors as they head off to college, hopefully with one of our scholarships to aid them and their families, regardless of race or whether they may be the first in their families—or just another link in a mighty chain of educated minds.

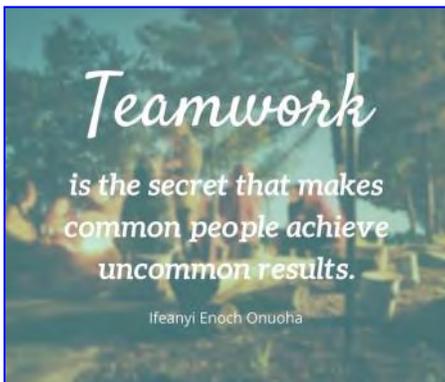


Along with our minds, we use our hands and feet and hold fundraisers to make these accomplishments for our students and paraprofessionals. When we reach our goals and see our successes, our hearts leap with joy, as evidence that it takes all parts of the body and all kinds of people to make our association amazing.



2019-2020 TESSA Board Members—From left to right: Bridgette Manuel, Joann Gardner, Teri Baldrige, Terri Marfisi and Tamra Pittman

Our 2019-2020 TESSA Board consists of five leaders - women with great minds, creative, hardworking hands and generous hearts. Each leader brings something to our 50-member strong association that the others need in order to be as successful as we all want to be in our endeavors. This collaboration brings to mind another old expression, “Many hands make light work.” Whether we are 5 or 50, or anywhere in between, when we put our minds together, along with our hearts, plus our hands and feet, to accomplish great things—nothing goes to waste!





## Texas Educational Support Staff Association, INC

### PROFIT AND LOSS

August—October, 2019

|                                     | <b>Total</b>        |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                       |                     |
| 42030 STEM-Billings                 | 3,294.08            |
| 42630 STEM-CEOP Application         | 20.00               |
| 45310 Affiliate Service-Income      | 1,000.64            |
| 46010 Membership Dues               | 12,906.23           |
| 46210 Affiliation Dues              | 453.50              |
| 46300 Newsletter Subscriptions      | 20.00               |
| 48510 Advertising                   | 675.00              |
| 48710 Interest Income               | 16.92               |
| 49000 Donations                     | 75.00               |
| 49710 Miscellaneous Income          | 12.09               |
| 49999 Credit Card Surcharge         | 265.00              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>\$ 18,738.46</b> |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                 | <b>\$ 18,738.46</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>                     |                     |
| 50525 SWC-Facility/Equipment Rental | 1,890.00            |
| 60230 STEM-Consultant Honorarium    | 2,318.50            |
| 80410 Affiliate Services-Expenses   | 327.84              |
| 81110 Salaries & Wages              | 2,604.27            |
| 81310 Payroll Tax Expenses          | 1,820.91            |
| 81910 Insurance                     | 904.00              |
| 84410 LRR Scholarship Expense       | 717.19              |
| 85511 NAEOP Affiliate Dues          | 101.10              |
| 86110 Rent-Office                   | 2,500.00            |
| 86410 Rent-Equipment                | 428.68              |
| 86710 Bank/Credit Card Fees         | 524.35              |
| 87310 Audit & Accounting            | 1,393.98            |
| 87910 Website Maintenance           | 3,630.76            |
| 88110 Telephone/Internet            | 621.67              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>               | <b>\$ 19,783.25</b> |
| <b>Net Operating Income</b>         | <b>-\$ 1,044.79</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>                   | <b>-\$ 1,044.79</b> |

## Spring Branch Educational Support Staff Association (SBESA)



*Train  
your mind  
to see  
the good in  
everything*



Members of the Spring Branch Educational Support Staff Association (SBESA) had a very busy fall semester. Events included: Pumpkin Carving, Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Santa's Farm, and a Holiday Party!

Members are now gearing up for the annual Bosses Night on January 30, 2020, featuring a Mardi Gras theme.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SBESA's Annual Bosses Night**  
January 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.  
Pine Shadows Elementary



## Articles of Interest From the Legislative Front

Provided by Stacy Wright

**Secret Service Study finds that school attackers show warning signs by Allison Harris, Fox 4 News:** <https://www.fox4news.com/news/secret-service-study-finds-that-school-attackers-show-warning-signs>

**Gallup study shows Teachers who Promote Creativity See Educational Results:** <https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/245600/teachers-promote-creativity-educational-results.aspx>

**House Bill 3 (HB #) Implementation: Transportation Funding:** <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/house-bill-3-hb-3-implementation-transportation-funding>

**House Bill 3 (HB 3) Implementation: Special Education Allotment Advisory Committee:** <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/house-bill-3-hb-3-implementation-special-education-allotment-advisory-committee>

**Secretary DeVos Names New Members to the National Assessment Governing Board:** [https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-names-new-members-national-assessment-governing-board?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-names-new-members-national-assessment-governing-board?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

**A Newly introduced Federal Bill prompts Texas schools to begin to monitor students' social media:** <https://www.newschannel10.com/2019/11/07/river-road-isd-begins-utilize-software-monitor-students-social-media/>



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| Inside Back Cover (7.5" w X 9.8"h) | \$150                | \$500                 |
| Full Page (7.5" w X 9.8" h)        | \$125                | \$400                 |
| Half Page (7.5" w X 4.8"h)         | \$75                 | \$240                 |
| Quarter Page (3.6" w X 4.8"h)      | \$50                 | \$175                 |

EMAIL SHERRY GRAY TO PLACE AN AD [sherry.gray@sicd.edu](mailto:sherry.gray@sicd.edu)

### TESA

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