

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE • NEA OFFICERS VISIT TEXAS • CAMPAIGN TO LOWER CLASS SIZE

Advocate

Texas State Teachers Association/National Education Association

Fall 2010

Bill White

On politics, class size, salaries
and accountability by high-stakes test

Think education before you vote

Our recommendations for
the November election



Why TSTA gets **involved** in politics

The political process determines the quality of our schools, the size of your classes, the resources you have as an educator, your salary and benefits and the quality of the curriculum you are required to teach. **By Rita Haecker, TSTA President**

As you have noticed, this issue of the Advocate features a photo of Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill White on the cover. TSTA is supporting White for governor because he—the son of two public school teachers and a former, successful mayor of Houston—is the best choice for the future of our public schools, educators and school kids.

Why, some of you may ask, does TSTA get involved in politics?

TSTA is involved in politics because the political process determines the quality of our schools, the size of your classes, the resources you have as an educator, your salary and benefits and the quality of the curriculum you are required to teach. All these decisions—from tax levels to textbook selection—are made by elected officials, including the governor, the Legislature, the State Board of Education and local school boards. And, it is imperative that educators be actively involved in their elections.

The very existence of TSTA is because of politics. Our organization was created in 1880 to convince the governor and the Legislature to establish a first-class, state-supported university. That first campaign was a success, resulting in the creation of the University of Texas at Austin.

TSTA has been involved in many political campaigns—and more than a few fights—since then. The strength of our numbers has been instrumental in winning legislative approval of pay raises and improved working conditions, in-

cluding your duty-free lunch. At the local level, we have succeeded in electing friends of education to school boards and have helped win passage of bond elections for construction of much-needed, new schools.

We are bipartisan. Our membership includes Democrats, Republicans and in-



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10 things you should know



1 BILL WHITE IS OUR CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

Read his thoughts on teacher salaries, class size, high-stakes testing and more on pages 10-13 of this issue. We think you'll like the way the former Houston mayor thinks. Having two parents who were teachers—and a son who's now teaching—probably didn't hurt. Find out how you can help elect him at www.billwhitefortexas.com.

2 BUT THAT'S JUST THE TOP OF THE LIST

"School districts are cutting budgets and educator jobs to compensate for inadequate state funding; and some legislators will try again next year to change the important 22:1 class size limit in grades K-4," TSTA President Rita Haecker warned participants at the summer TSTA Leadership Institute. "The budgetary crisis will likely deepen in the face of a huge revenue shortfall anticipated for the 2011 legislative session. The attacks are increasing every day and unless significant changes are made on election day, they will get worse."



TSTA-Political Action Committee has reviewed the positions and records of candidates for representative, senator, Congress and the State Board of Education. Find out who your friends are on page 8.

3 SIGN TSTA'S CLASS SIZE PETITION

If some legislators have their way in the next legislative session, you may find yourself crowded out of your classroom. Turn the page to see TSTA's plan for lowering class size in 2011, then print out and circulate the petition at www.tsta.org/news/current/classsize-petition.pdf.



4 TEACHER MOONLIGHTING JUMPS FROM 28 TO 40 PERCENT

Four of 10 Texas teachers moonlight during the school year to make ends meet, according to a new survey by Sam Houston State University commissioned by TSTA. It's the highest percentage since TSTA first started sponsoring the biennial survey, "Texas Teachers, Moonlighting and Morale," 30 years ago, and a significant jump from 28 percent in 2008. And in the summer, 56 percent of teachers take extra jobs. www.tsta.org/Pressroom/current/Moonlight_release_data.pdf



5 ALL THREE OF NEA'S OFFICERS WERE IN TEXAS THIS SUMMER

And you can read what they had to say on pages 7 (President Dennis Van Roekel), 14 (Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle) and 16 (Vice President Lily Eskelsen).



7 NEA SPEAKS UP FOR EDUCATION AND KIDS...

And wins! By the hundreds of thousands, NEA members, coalition partners, parents, activists and governors called, emailed and lobbied Congress, demanding they do right by the nation's students and save 161,000 educators' jobs threatened by budget cuts.

Congress listened and authorized \$10 billion in emergency funds for the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, legislation that rushed money to the states to keep teachers and support professionals working. Onward to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization. www.educationvotes.nea.org

8 LEADERS IN ACTION

Energized by the Leadership Institute this summer, members have been asking their fellow employees to join TSTA/NEA and increase their ability to make improvements in education at every level. Check out the photos on pages 18-19.

9 TIMES ARE TOUGH

Find out how NEA can help you save money, from dental and vision insurance, to credit cards and mortgages, to NEA's popular online discount program, Click & Save. www.neamb.com/home/moneyBenefits.htm

10 FAMILIAR VOICE ON THE RADIO?

TSTA President Rita Haecker recorded two public service announcements while at the NEA Annual Meeting in New Orleans this summer.



- Learning to Study: <http://bit.ly/bRqPkF>
- Helping Your Child Stay Organized: <http://bit.ly/9ykyYW>



6 NOMINATE OR APPLY FOR A C.L.E.A.N. AWARD

Custodian members can apply or be nominated for a C.L.E.A.N. Award to recognize their contributions to public health in their schools, communities and profession. The deadline is Dec. 1. Winners get a cash award and an all-expense-paid trip to the National ESP Conference. Five awards (one top recipient and four runners-up) will be presented at the NEA National ESP Conference in Washington, D.C., March 11-13, 2011. www.neahin.org/cleanaward/apply2011

Is your classroom crowded?

Join TSTA's campaign to lower class size in the 2011 legislative session.



We want 22-1 class size limits in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, 25-1 class size limits in grades 7-12, and 15-1 class size limits for all low-performing campuses and campuses in danger of becoming low performing.

We want the Legislature to reduce a district's ability to secure class size waivers for more than two consecutive years. And we want them to fully fund all these changes with state revenue.

Quality education improves our children's education, lowers dropout rates and strengthens our state. We know lowering class sizes works.

- It increases graduation rates.
- It improves test scores.
- It improves learning conditions.
- It's especially important for low-income families.
- It improves teacher working conditions.

Your local association will be asking you to sign a petition; extra copies can be downloaded from www.tsta.org/news/current/classsize-petition.pdf.

READING: IT'S NOT JUST ON MARCH 2

What's new with NEA's Read Across America, the year-long celebration of reading that culminates on March 2, Dr. Seuss's birthday?

NEA has a new partnership with Scholastic this year, in addition to its ongoing partnerships with Seuss Enterprises and Random House around Read Across America Day. Watch for updates and new partnerships to be announced on the website, www.nea.org/readacross.

You can start to plan your event with the resources that are online now. Blogs and the enewsletter should be up and running shortly.

Two things you should know:

- If you read a book online at www.wegivebooks.org, the Pearson Foundation will automatically donate a book to NEA's Books Across America.
- Another NEA partner is United Through Reading, www.unitedthroughreading.org; deployed parents read a book and it's recorded on a DVD and sent to their child.

BUDGET PLANNING FOR STATE AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

TSTA local affiliates annually elect members to be delegates to the TSTA and the NEA conventions. Members interested in becoming a

delegate to either convention should start planning now for the travel costs. Detailed information will appear in the winter and spring issues of the Advocate, but here is a preview of what to expect.

TSTA's 2011 State House of Delegates will be April 15-16, 2011, in El Paso, Texas. The Camino Real is the official convention hotel. The nightly room rate for members in the TSTA room block is a flat \$91, plus taxes (currently 15.5%) and added portage fees. The hotel offers complimentary shuttle from the airport. Parking is \$6/day based on space availability. The hotel is within blocks of the El Paso convention center, where the House of Delegates and TSTA elections will take place.

The NEA Representative Assembly will be July 2-5, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. The first Texas Caucus meeting will be on June 30. The Texas delegation hotel is the Embassy Suites Lakefront. The nightly room rate is \$199 single/double occupancy, \$230 triple occupancy, or \$260 quadruple occupancy, plus taxes (currently 15.4%). Valet parking with in-out privileges is \$49/day. Self parking is \$41/day without in-out privileges. This all-suite property is conveniently located to a variety of shopping, dining, and entertainment venues. Round-trip trans-

portation between the airport and hotel averages \$40-\$50.

NEA RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RESULTS

At NEA's annual meeting in July, the Texas Caucus elected Winifred Jackson of Longview and reelected Gordon Gauthier of Deer Park and George Cordova of El Paso (Socorro) to the NEA Resolutions Committee, which prepares and presents to the Representative Assembly resolutions that are proposed for adoption.

TEXAS WELCOMES NEA PRESIDENT

In August, TSTA welcomed NEA President Dennis Van Roekel to Texas for a first-hand look at some of the accomplishments and challenges of Texas educators. His agenda included school visits in San Antonio and a town hall meeting with TSTA President Rita Haecker at Paredes Middle School in Austin. They were joined by Paredes Principal Raul Moreno, campus leader Trasell Underwood, local educators, parents and members of the Austin Interfaith community group.

Van Roekel discussed education funding, the recently-enacted education jobs bill, teacher salaries and the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act,

whose current version is also known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

Van Roekel was on a week-long, back-to-school tour to energize school staff and spotlight public school innovation, service learning, partnerships, and teacher- and union-led school transformation efforts.

"Austin's educators had a lot to say and their passion for their profession and their students was evident. They know each and every one of their students deserve a great public school," Van Roekel said at the week's end. "I've travelled to several states this week and talked to many educators and community members around the country, and they all have the same focus - their students. We need to provide the tools and resources that educators, parents, schools and communities need to ensure all students succeed."

Van Roekel and Haecker also met with the Austin American Statesman's editorial board and with a reporter from the Dallas Morning News.

GET MORE

Photos of Van Roekel's tour: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/neaapr/sets/72157624632013893>

Photos of the Texas stops: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tstapublicaffairs/sets/72157624718650973>

THINK EDUCATION BEFORE YOU VOTE

In just a few short weeks, you can make a difference—but only if you go to the polls and vote. Who gets elected does make a difference for the public schools and for educators.

Here is a list of candidates, including Democratic nominee Bill White in the governor's race, who TSTA believes have the best interests of school kids, their teachers and everyone else involved in their educational experience at heart.

If you still need to register to vote, please do so by the Oct. 4 deadline.

It costs lots of money to run successful political campaigns, and many of our candidates are facing opponents well-funded by voucher advocates and others who would undermine public schools. So, please consider contributing to TSTA PAC. Your money will be put to good use, fighting for candidates who support our cause. TSTA is developing an online way to make PAC contributions using your credit card. Check www.tsta.org for updates.

If you can spare a couple of hours, volunteer to help our candidates. Put bumper stickers on your car. Knock on doors, make phone calls, remind friends and neighbors how important this election is to you and them.

You can vote early Oct. 18-29 or wait and vote on Election Day, Nov. 2. But, please, vote.

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

Congress		HD 19	Mike Hamilton	HD 93	Paula Pierson
CD 9	Al Green	HD 21	Allan Ritter	HD 94	Diane Patrick
CD 15	Ruben Hinojosa	HD 22	Joe Deshotel	HD 95	Marc Veasey
CD 16	Silvestre Reyes	HD 23	Craig Eiland	HD 96	Chris Turner
CD 17	Chet Edwards	HD 27	Ron Reynolds	HD 97	Mark Shelton
CD 18	Sheila Jackson Lee	HD 28	John Zerwas	HD 98	Vicki Truitt
CD 20	Charles Gonzalez	HD 31	Ryan Guillen	HD 99	Charlie Geren
CD 23	Ciro Rodriguez	HD 33	Solomon Ortiz Jr.	HD 100	Eric Johnson
CD 25	Lloyd Doggett	HD 34	Abel Herrero	HD 101	Robert Miklos
CD 27	Solomon Ortiz	HD 35	Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles	HD 102	Carol Kent
CD 28	Henry Cuellar	HD 36	Sergio Muñoz Jr.	HD 103	Rafael Anchia
CD 29	Gene Green	HD 37	Rene Oliveira	HD 104	Robert Alonzo
CD 30	Eddie Bernice Johnson	HD 38	Eddie Lucio III	HD 105	Loretta Haldenwang
		HD 39	Mando Martinez	HD 106	Kirk England
		HD 40	Aaron Pena	HD 107	Allen Vaught
		HD 41	Veronica Gonzales	HD 109	Helen Giddings
		HD 42	Richard Raymond	HD 110	Barbara Mallory Caraway
		HD 43	Jose Lozano	HD 111	Yvonne Davis
		HD 44	Edmund Kuempel	HD 114	John Wellik
		HD 45	Patrick Rose	HD 116	Trey Martinez Fischer
		HD 46	Dawnna Dukes	HD 117	David Leibowitz
		HD 47	Valinda Bolton	HD 118	Joe Farias
		HD 48	Donna Howard	HD 119	Roland Gutierrez
		HD 49	Elliott Naishtat	HD 120	Ruth Jones McClendon
		HD 50	Mark Strama	HD 123	Mike Villarreal
		HD 51	Eddie Rodriguez	HD 124	Jose Menendez
		HD 52	Diana Maldonado	HD 125	Joaquin Castro
		HD 54	Jimmie Don Aycock	HD 127	Dan Huberty
		HD 56	John Mabry	HD 131	Alma Allen
		HD 57	Jim Dunnam	HD 133	Kristi Thibaut
		HD 60	Jim Keffer	HD 134	Ellen Cohen
		HD 71	Susan King	HD 137	Scott Hochberg
		HD 72	Drew Darby	HD 138	Kendra Camarena
		HD 73	Doug Miller	HD 139	Sylvester Turner
		HD 74	Pete Gallego	HD 140	Armando Walle
		HD 75	Chente Quintanilla	HD 141	Senfronia Thompson
		HD 76	Naomi Gonzalez	HD 142	Harold Dutton Jr.
		HD 77	Marisa Marquez	HD 143	Ana Hernandez
		HD 78	Joe Moody	HD 144	Rick Molina
		HD 79	Joe Pickett	HD 145	Carol Alvarado
		HD 80	Tracy King	HD 146	Borris Miles
		HD 85	Joe Heflin	HD 147	Garnet Coleman
		HD 90	Lon Burnam	HD 148	Jessica Farrar
		HD 92	Todd Smith	HD 149	Hubert Vo
Statewide					
Governor	Bill White				
State Board of Education					
SBOE 1	Rene Nunez				
SBOE 3	Mike Soto				
SBOE 4	Lawrence Allen Jr.				
SBOE 5	Rebecca Bell-Metereau				
SBOE 9	Thomas Ratliff				
SBOE 10	Judy Jennings				
SBOE 15	Bob Craig				
Texas Senate					
SD 01	Kevin Eltife				
SD 13	Rodney Ellis				
SD 14	Kirk Watson				
SD 15	John Whitmire				
SD 19	Carlos Uresti				
SD 29	Jose Rodriguez				
Texas House					
HD 1	Stephen Frost				
HD 3	Mark Homer				
HD 4	Lance Gooden				
HD 5	Bryan Hughes				
HD 8	Byron Cook				
HD 10	Jim Pitts				
HD 11	Chuck Hopson				
HD 12	Jim McReynolds				
HD 15	Rob Eissler				
HD 16	Brandon Creighton				



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Investing in people, not politics



Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill White, in a recent interview with the Advocate, said that, if elected, he will make education funding a top priority next year as legislators wrestle with an anticipated \$18 billion revenue shortfall. He also called the existing accountability system for the public schools a “joke” and said the State Board of Education’s interjection of politics into the school curriculum has hurt the Texas economy. White, the former mayor of Houston and son of two public school teachers, has been endorsed by TSTA. **By Clay Robison**

Q Both of your parents were public school teachers. Please tell us a little bit about them.

A They worked hard. My dad had to have an extra job, and my mom did for quite a bit, just to make ends meet and save money for college for their kids. You don’t go into public education to get rich, but a lot of people do want to have a better future for their kids.

Q Every two years, TSTA commissions a survey on teacher moonlighting and morale. This year’s survey indicated that about 40 percent of Texas’ teachers took extra jobs during the past school year to make ends meet. This was the highest percentage since TSTA started the survey 30 years ago.

A We do need to compensate people as professionals, where they can make teaching a career, and they can raise a family on it. I can’t tell you the first day that I’m in the job of governor I’m going to be able to solve all the problems. But I do know we need to make teaching something that can be a career. We may be at risk of losing that right now.

Q Texas faces a projected \$18 billion revenue shortfall when the Legislature convenes in

January. Writing a new state budget will be tough. Will education be a priority?

A I will try to give a priority to education and public safety. We can spell out what that means. It means that there are other parts of the social safety net that need to be mended, but they cannot be the first priority. We have to take those things that have the greatest long-range impact on the state. So, that means that we need to invest in people because ultimately, so long as we continue to lag behind the national average on per capita income, the average amount that Texans make, there will be less opportunity for everybody. There are (other) places we need to bring this state up, TYC, MHMR. A lot of improvements could be made (in those agencies) just by better management. But higher education, public education—that would be the top priority.

Q Maintaining the 22-1 student-teacher ratio in kindergarten through 4th grade is an important priority for TSTA members. Will you fight to keep that class size limit?

A Our goal should be to maintain or lower current student-teacher ratios. I will seek counsel from front-line educators, administrators,

school boards and members of the Legislature on how to retain and attract great educators while dealing with Rick Perry's \$18 billion budget hole.

Q How would you attack the revenue shortfall?

A When all is said and done, remember that this deficit is caused by, in part, cost escalations, which are built in and which haven't been tackled in years. And in the city of Houston, I tackled them—employee medical, employee pensions, headcount of employees, increasing the productivity of employees, vendor contracts. A lot of vendor contracts have cost escalators, and they need to be stripped out of those contracts wherever we can. We need to renegotiate those contracts. That's a tough and painful process for a lot of people, but I think we need to do that in the state of Texas.

Q What do you see as the most important issue facing public education?

A There's not one single most important (thing), but it generally is having a higher priority for public education among the citizens, state government and local government in our state. There's nothing more important we can do to prepare for the future than prepare our citizens to compete for good jobs in a growing economy. There's nothing more important, and yet we seem content to stand still and take some steps backward. We need to start early to compete with other countries. I wouldn't have vetoed the early childhood education (bill) that he (Gov. Rick Perry) vetoed (and) that was bipartisan in nature. We need to cut the dropout rate, not by giving speeches on cutting the dropout rate, but by having after-school programs and summer school to bring more people up to grade level. We (need to) better integrate work into the school environment, so a person doesn't have to choose between work and schooling. We need to revive technical and voca-

tional education in our state. Nobody should be assigned to a feeder pattern that's vocational only. People have different talents, and the market requires different skills. We're falling behind and being content to import people with skills, hourly craftsmen, rather than train Texans, and that's wrong. Those are some of the things. And this whole idea of accountability, that people are held accountable based on a high-stakes, multiple-choice test every year—if it weren't real life, it would be a joke.

Q Can we have any confidence in the current accountability system?

A No. I mean, the school accountability system itself is not accountable.

This whole idea of accountability, that people are held accountable based on a high-stakes, multiple-choice test every year—if it weren't real life, it would be a joke.

The people at the top don't want to hold themselves accountable. They want to hold the classroom teacher accountable, but they don't want to hold themselves accountable, and it's terrible.

Q What would you put into an accountability system besides test scores?

A You ought to start with your goal. Your goal is to create people who are self-sufficient. What are people doing two years after they get out of high school? Are they continuing their education? Are they in an apprenticeship program? Do they have a job? If so, how much money do they make? I do believe there ought to be ways to measure student improvement. That's nothing new. When I went to school,

we had tests every week, and I had six-week exams and semester exams.

Q So, there's a role for tests in an accountability system, but not just strictly tests?

A Not just one test, and certainly not a multiple-choice test.

Q Obviously, the school finance system still is broken. How would you fix it?

A First, we need to provide a minimum level of adequate funding so that somebody's horizons aren't limited by their zip code or which side of the school district line they happen to be located on. We want to allow some parents to have the freedom and flexibility by expending more effort to be able to supplement and enhance the education of their children through public schools. That does require some balance, and finding the right balance is something that is not always easy. But we'll work with stakeholders to find what that right balance is and then correct those things that everybody agrees make no sense.

Q You talk about a mix of state and local taxes. Do you have in mind how much that state base should be?

A No, I don't. But I do know that there are school districts right now, such as the one that my son has begun teaching in, North Forest School District in Houston, where extracurricular activities get shorted, where facilities don't have funding to operate.

Q Does your son plan to make teaching a career?

A I don't know how long he'll be at it, but he'll be in it for a while. He is teaching middle school science at a district charter school. I'm proud of him. He's a brand new teacher, but he did tell me when he made the decision that he had heard me talk many times that it was

the most important job at any place, at any time. He wanted to make a difference.

Q What kind of person would you appoint to chair the State Board of Education?

A I would appoint somebody as chair who could build consensus and focus on those things that are critical in preparing Texans to compete for good jobs. How we can have more open source materials, for example, as opposed to the highly expensive textbook system that we have now.

Q Earlier this year, you asked the State Board of Education to delay a final vote on the new social studies curriculum standards. Did you disapprove of the way the board conducted that process?

A Yes. It hurt Texas. It disrespected educators. (It hurt) those of us who have worked hard to attract businesses to this state and have fought the image—which I have always considered an unfair stereotype—of Texas as a parochial place. It hurts us when people interject politics in this century into the public classrooms of our state. It hurts job growth, it hurts business development, it hurts our ability to attract new jobs. I don't care what your ideology is. I mean, you can be anywhere from a Ron Paul or Goldwater Republican to a McGovern, liberal Democrat, it hurts Texans for Texas to be a state where you have elected officials debating the causes of the Civil War and taking a vote on it. It's ridiculous.

Q Even during a budget crunch, some people still would like to promote tax-paid vouchers for private school tuition. Should we be spending tax money for vouchers?

A No. Right now, we need to strengthen the education that's available to all the comers.

Q What would you do about the rising cost of college tuition? Should we change the tuition deregulation law?

A I think the cause of the spike (in tuition) was actually state support that was not increasing as fast as the cost of providing higher education. So the symptoms of that are higher tuition rates. But I don't think we can afford another 92 percent increase in tuition for the four-year schools.

Q Would you consider increasing the amount of student financial aid?

A There's an existing program, Texas Grants, which is not fully funded. I can't tell you where we're going to be able to fill that hole. I know of a social science teacher in the Cy Fair district. She and her husband both make in the low 40s. Her dad was a refinery worker

It hurts Texans for Texas to be a state where you have elected officials debating the causes of the Civil War and taking a vote on it. It's ridiculous.

in Pasadena. He was able to send her and her two sisters to Texas A&M University without bankrupting the family. Now, she makes a lot more money than her dad—she and her husband. They have three kids. They're good students. They could get into Texas A&M, but they can't afford to send them there. They can afford to send only one, and they've got to choose which one. People are making more income than their parents because they were able to go to good schools that their parents weren't able to go to, but now they can't afford to send their kids to those same schools. Something is wrong with that picture. I'm not saying there's one solution. But certainly tuition is no longer affordable for so many Texas families. It's critical to higher educa-

tion—for the future of our state—that it be more affordable.

Q Hispanics soon will make up a majority of Texas residents. What are your views on bilingual education?

A Now more than ever, now more than ever, English is the language of the economy and international commerce. It's the language of the Internet, and it is very important for young people from all backgrounds to get English language proficiency as soon as they can. We ought to evaluate programs to make sure that they are successful at reaching a level of English language proficiency. I've always felt that, as somebody who's learning Spanish as a second language, that it's helped me when I've had people who did know some English who were teaching me. Others have said that's true, that somebody who's bilingual is a better teacher than somebody who's only teaching in the language that somebody else is learning. But it's important that people not be in perpetual bilingual programs where they do not have a mastery of English.

Q Besides your parents, are there any special teachers you remember from your public school days?

A I hate to pick one, but I would tell you that when I was in high school there were some teachers who let me explore. That knew that I liked to read—in history and English especially. They allowed me to read and then report back to the class on something that was not part of the standardized curriculum. I appreciated it. They were teachers for whom there was no one-size-fits-all. But probably the biggest influence as a teacher was my mom. She sat down and diagrammed sentences with me, and still, to this day, I can diagram a sentence.

GET MORE

Photos, videos, news and links: www.tsta.org/news/current/billwhite.shtml



Summer school for leaders

Leadership is the intersection between opportunity and preparedness, NEA Secretary-Treasurer Becky Pringle says. If you attended TSTA's July Leadership Institute, you have the second half covered.

In the intensive five-day program, July 21-25 at the Omni Southpark Austin Hotel, there were courses on every aspect of leadership and for every level of leader—emerging leaders and experienced leaders, new presidents and members still in college.



“We are a family,” TSTA President Rita Haecker said. “As a family we rejoice in each other’s successes and we honor where we’ve been and we look to where we’re going, and I can’t tell you how exciting it is to see so many people wanting to do what we’ve got to do to take care of our students and our teachers and our educational support professionals and all those people that work in our schools every day.”

“You have come here in the middle of a hot summer for one reason: because you have made a choice, a decision, to become activists for your association,” Becky Pringle, the keynote speaker, said.

“Those of you who are local leaders, you are the ones our members turn to when they need help, when they need inspiration, when they need guidance,

when they need that powerful force behind them...they turn to you.

“Don’t allow political pundits or public school detractors or naysayers to sway you from your ultimate goal of ensuring all children—not some of them but all of them—have the quality education they deserve. Don’t allow them to take you from your path of association leadership, fighting for the rights of your members. You stand strong,” Pringle said.

GET MORE

- Photos: <http://bit.ly/9aL2HC>
- More photos, by Norman Quigley, Fort Worth local president <http://bit.ly/bDtDG2>
- Video: <http://bit.ly/atZCti>





Eskelsen urges educators to fight back

“Public education is the foundation for everything we hope to accomplish in our country,” NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen said at the Socorro ISD Convocation in July.

“No matter what we want to talk about—crime, the economy, the future, the space program—it all comes down to what we will do in our classrooms for someone else’s child. It is a foundation that I believe today is being shaken to its core,” she continued. “We have never seen public schools under attack by so many people, individuals who often don’t know what they’re talking about and I notice those are the ones with the biggest opinions.”

Eskelsen urged employees of the El Paso-area, year-round school district to fight back by sharing stories of the wonderful things that happen in public school classrooms every day, “miracles that are too big to fit on that standardized test.”

“Don’t ever believe that the most important thing your kids need from you is to hit a cut score. Our calling is to care about the whole child, and now it has to be to make the whole world care about the whole child,” she said.

“Tell everybody you know how obnoxiously proud you are of something that’s going on in your classroom, so they start to see that our kids are not a test score, they are not a number. Tell them, so they may begin to care about somebody else’s kid the way we do,” Eskelsen said.

Socorro Education Association had booths inside and outside the convocation auditorium. The TSTA local has 2,700 members.

GET MORE

- clips of Eskelsen’s speech: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9sftYo6twc>
- photos of convocation activities and the reception: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tstapublicaffairs/sets/72157624618791502>



Congratulations!

To Beth Huckabee of Flour Bluff: A biology teacher at Flour Bluff High School, she is a finalist in the Texas Teacher of the Year program. <http://bit.ly/98ejww>

To Lorene Wallace of Austin and Stephanie Weaver of Pearland: They have been named finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Wallace is a first grade teacher at Bryker Woods Elementary School in Austin ISD and Weaver is a third grade teacher at Shadycrest Elementary School in Pearland ISD. <http://bit.ly/cXuSWS>

To Carolyn Jordan of Houston: A sixth grade language arts teacher at Elmore Middle School in Houston, Jordan and her partner Charlotte Jolivet received a \$5,000 student achievement grant from the NEA Foundation this summer. Sixth grade ESL students at the school will use the grant, which was awarded in partnership with Nickelodeon, to create a campus paper recycling program, collaborating with their peers to create PowerPoint presentations, design and produce poster advertisements, and decorate recycling bins. www.neafoundation.org

To Joyce Roberta “JR” Miller-Alper of Houston: A Spring Branch high school teacher, Miller attended her third National Endowment for the Humanities seminar this summer, at Montpelier in Virginia, home of James Madison. Previously she studied George Washington at Mt. Vernon and Zora Neale Hurston in Eatonville, Florida. Only 80 people are chosen to attend the nationwide programs. www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/landmarks.html



Gearing up for a new school year



They went to the TSTA Leadership Institute this summer to plan; now TSTA local associations are putting their plans into action. Clockwise from the bottom of the left page:

Waco TSTA/NEA's executive committee built its "full capacity power plan."

North East Teachers Association's association representatives for the transportation department wore "I am a TSTA member; are you?" buttons.

Association of Brownsville Educators signed up 60 of 65 new teachers at the district new teacher orientation. With almost 4,000 members, it is TSTA's largest local association.



Klein TSTA/NEA had a busy table at their convocation and new teacher orientation, signing up 25 new members.

Edgewood Teachers Association provided lunch for new teachers and signed up 30 members.

Harlandale Education Association held a luncheon for new teachers—and offered them two days of classroom assistance.

Ysleta Teachers Association signed up 70 of 98 new teachers this year. At new teacher orientation, YTA had a prize wheel, black & gold balloons and a door prize raffle.

Southwest Educators Association invited 52 new teachers to lunch; 32 joined.



Paris teacher starts a movement for young educators

Thanks to the determination of a group of young education leaders headed by a Paris ISD teacher, NEA will use its communications network to help state and local teacher unions recruit, prepare and retain young educators for the public schools.



Officers of the Caucus of Young Educators of NEA are Nicole Glaser, secretary, Conroe ISD; Josh Brown, co-chair, Iowa; Katharine Ashby, chair, Paris ISD; and Troi Orias, treasurer, Hawaii.

The Caucus of Young Educators, organized only a year ago, proposed and won passage of the necessary business item at NEA's recent Representative Assembly in New Orleans.

"The quality of public education in Texas and our nation in the future will depend on young teachers, counselors and other support workers entering and staying in the profession today. Support and mentoring from other educators are critical to their success," said Katharine Ashby, the caucus chair and founder. She is a sixth grade social studies and science teacher at Crockett Intermediate School in Paris ISD.

The initiative commits NEA to "research and publish, using existing communications devices, information that would assist state and local affiliates in creating programs to educate, recruit and retain educators, including substitute teachers and ESPs (education support professionals), within the first five years of their professional careers."

"What started with a simple observation turned into a movement," Ashby said. She came up with the idea of creating the Caucus of Young Educators when she attended her first NEA convention in Washington in 2008. She noticed there were caucuses for just about every group or interest imaginable—both serious and not-so-serious—except younger educators.

So she started collecting email addresses from potential members, submitted the necessary paperwork to NEA and, with

her new colleagues, organized the caucus at the Representative Assembly in San Diego last year.

Ashby and other caucus members planned to continue their work in New Orleans but, after arriving, noticed that many of their colleagues who had been in San Diego were missing because their jobs had been terminated since the 2009 convention.

So, they discussed their concerns about young educator jobs with NEA Executive Board Member Greg Johnson, a high school choir director from Oklahoma, then lobbied delegates for the NEA commitment.

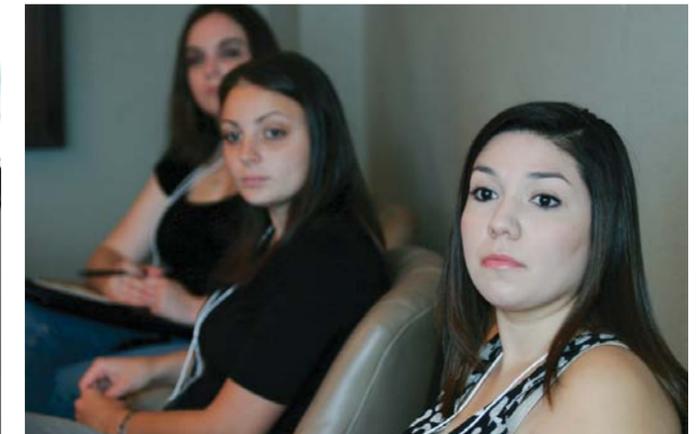
TSTA-RETIRED

How to run for office: Nominations are currently in order for president and vice president of TSTA-Retired, as well as retired at-large delegates to the 2011 TSTA House of Delegates in El Paso and TSTA-Retired delegates to the 2011 NEA Representative Assembly in Chicago. The president and vice president positions are for a two-year term, July 15, 2011 to 2013.

All elections take place in March by mailed ballot. Members may nominate themselves or other members, as long as they have written permission from the person they are nominating. Candidates must be categorized as "Retired Active Members" to nominate and serve as delegates or alternates. You may make additional copies of the form you will be mailed if you want to nominate for more than one position. All forms must be completed and returned by Jan. 15, 2011, to TSTA-Retired, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Current officers: TSTA-Retired officers for 2010-2011 are Johnetta Williams, Dallas, president; Jay Ann Rucker, El Paso, vice president; Paul Haupt, El Paso, secretary; JoAnn Peschel, Houston, treasurer; and Letha Grace McCoy, Bursleson, past president.

Recent events: TSTA-Retired members Bobbie Duncan, Fran Valenzuela, Letha Grace McCoy, Virginia Wong, Johnetta Williams and Jerry Watkins attended the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in New Orleans in June. Duncan and Williams were



TSTA-Retired delegates and Watkins was an at-large retired delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly.

Upcoming events:

Sept. 16-17—Board of Directors meeting, TSTA Headquarters

Dec. 2-3—Board of Directors meeting, TSTA Headquarters

Jan. 15—Deadline for submitting nomination forms

Feb. 3-4—Board of Directors meeting, TSTA Headquarters

March 3—Ballots due by 5:00 p.m. to TSTA Headquarters in Austin

March 4—Ballots canvassed at TSTA Headquarters

April 13-14—TSTA-Retired

Annual Meeting (all member meeting), El Paso

April 24-26—NEA-Retired East Region Conference, Pittsburgh

June 26-28—NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Chicago

Visit www.tsta.org/inside/retired and www.nea.org/retired for more about our retired associations.

TSTA-STUDENT PROGRAM

Resources: The NEA website has information and news. www.nea.org/home/1600.htm

TSTA Leadership Academy: The photos on this page are of TSTA-Student Program leaders participating in the 2010 Leadership Academy in Austin July 23-25. See

TSTA's Photo Album for more photos and video. <http://www.tsta.org/inside/about/photoalbum.shtml>

Transforming schools: As part of the NEA-Student Program Conference and NEA Representative Assembly, student members, active teachers, education support professionals and retired educators band together to renovate a local school each year. It's called "Outreach to Teach." This year, 10 TSTA-SP student took part in "Outreach to Teach" at Belle Chase High School in Belle Chase, Louisiana. The students were: Meredith Beck, Dynae' Carver, Melissa Clark, Patricia Fonseca, Kevin Jackson, Deidre Lester, Elsa Muro, Michelle Naquin, Ana Silva and Danielle Thorp as well

as TSTA-SP Coordinator, Bryan Weatherford.

Angela Hammonds, a student at Sam Houston State University, represented TSTA-SP at the NEA RA in New Orleans.

Jack Kinnaman Scholarship: NEA student members can get help with tuition. www.nea.org/home/16692.htm

Grants for organizing efforts: TSTA offers student chapters grants of up to \$500 for new and ongoing organizing efforts. www.tsta.org/inside/student/Mini-GrantAnnouncement.pdf

Call Bryan Weatherford at 877-ASK-TSTA or email him at bryanw@tsta.org for more information.



A U-turn for student understanding

Many psychologists are fascinated with how people learn things; of those who study learning, there is a strong belief in a U-shaped pattern of learning. **By Dr. Paul Henley**

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, a Swiss learning expert, said that learning works best when it proceeds from the things students already know to things they don't know. Teachers know that, but they also know that learning doesn't follow a perfect line upward over time. It can be frustrating, but there are reasons that happens.

Many years ago, one professor quipped, "We should have been plumbers or carpenters. I mean, when a plumber fixes something, he comes back the next day...and it's still fixed. We're teachers. We fix something one day, come back the next day and it's broken again. So we fix it again. Then the next day, same thing. We've fixed it again, and it's broken again."

It helps a teacher to understand ways that students learn. The field of psychology has much to teach the education community (and vice-versa). Many psychologists are fascinated with how people learn things; of those who study learning, there is a strong belief in a U-shaped pattern of learning.

U-shaped growth concept scores initially are high and then decrease in a second phase, only to regain a high level of correctness in a third phase (learn-unlearn-learn). This has been documented in how children learn physical concepts, music mastery and language acquisition. U-shaped patterns have been seen in other behaviors, as well, such as addiction recovery, marriage satisfaction and economics.

HERE ARE A FEW EXAMPLES:

Students learn that the suffix "-ed" refers to something that happened in the past. At first, there are many consecutive correct answers, but there are exceptions in English. Students can go through a period where they overly-generalize these concepts (like using the made-up word, goed). After this second phase, students identify some exceptions to general patterns and these mistakes don't happen as often.

A student trying to learn a second language sees her skill level

drop and forgets words she has already learned. Just when she's convinced she'll never be able to learn the new language, she finds herself eavesdropping on conversations at the next restaurant table with no trouble.

Students are working in science, learning about animals. They have been taught all about birds, and they know birds fairly well. When the class moves on to furry animals, they are taught about the bat. Bats fly like birds, but they have fur instead of feathers. This leads to confusion, and at that point the students actually know less about birds than they did before studying bats.

These three examples have more than U-shaped learning in common. They also involve new concepts (often exceptions to rules) or too much unrelated information. The U-shaped pattern usually appears when these things happen.

Teachers can benefit from keeping aware of the U-shaped pattern that students use when learning new concepts. Here are some ideas:

1. When you see this pattern, focus on moving from the bottom of the "U" back to the top. In other words, consider approaching material as though students were learning it for the first

time. That may slow the class at times, but it helps assure that students have had time to learn something, unlearn it and fully regain it.

2. Introduce new concepts very carefully and connect those new concepts to prior learning in as many ways as you can.
3. Make sure that you give students as much context as you can when you give them new information. If learning is not sequential, it won't be as successful.
4. Cut yourself some slack. This model helps explain why class improvement can actually regress. Stu-

dents learn at different paces; you already know that, but as you consider this new learning pattern, understand that learning does not happen in a straight line of increase. Expect disappointments, but always be aware that your students are simply learning the same way most people learn.

Remember, most students learn new concepts by building on previous knowledge. That is how we naturally expect learning to occur. At times, though, students must take a step backward before they can move forward.

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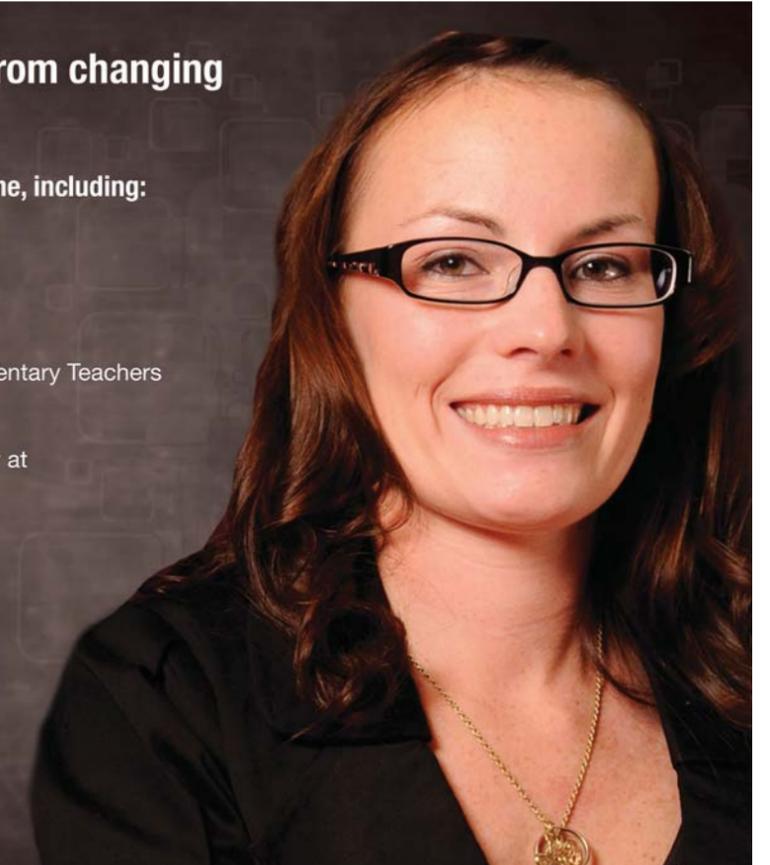
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Honoring excellence among educators

The start of the new school year inevitably includes lots of planning. As you put together your annual calendar, don't forget to plan on recognizing your peers and other friends of education in your community. TSTA offers several opportunities to recognize outstanding educators, education support professionals, regional and local associations, media representatives, businesses, and other individuals or organizations that support public education.

RONNIE RAY ESP ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nomination Deadline: September 30

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance

Recognizes a TSTA education support professional (ESP) member whose activities reflect the contributions of education support professionals to public education, particularly in one or more of the following areas: (1) innovations to support the day-to-day educational process; (2) professional achievements in his/her classification; (3) involvement in promoting public education in the community; (4) involvement in TSTA at the local, state or national level; and (5) enhancement of the ESP image in their association, work site or community. Nominees must have been an ESP member of TSTA for three years as of January 15.

INSTRUCTIONAL AWARDS

Plan Deadline: November 1

Documentation Deadline: March 15

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Public Affairs

Recognizes local associations for planned activities and accomplishments that incorporate certain strands of the NEA Priority Schools Initiative into local planning. Detailed information about the criteria can be found at: www.tsta.org/teaching/current/instructional_awards.shtml.



FRIEND OF EDUCATION AWARD

Nomination Deadline: December 1

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance

Recognizes either (1) an individual, who is not a professional educator, who has made a significant contribution to the cause of public education or (2) an organization/company outside the field of education that has made an outstanding contribution in the field of education.

Any TSTA member, local association, region or other recognized group—e.g. TSTA committee or caucus—may submit a nominating letter or memo accompanied by supporting evidence detailing why the nominee is worthy of the award.

FRANK J. TEJEDA AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Nomination Deadline: December 1

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance

Recognizes an individual for service at the state or national political/legislative level on behalf of Texas public school children or educational employees. Nominees must be elected or appointed officials who are not currently employed full time by a school district. Any TSTA member or group of members or the award committee may submit a letter of nomination and supporting evidence of accomplishments related to the award.

SCHOOL BELL AWARDS

Nomination Deadline: January 31

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Public Affairs

Recognizes outstanding media coverage of education issues and events. There are several categories of awards for different forms of media and various populations. The instruction book and nomination form are available on TSTA's website.

PROFESSIONAL, HUMAN, AND CIVIL RIGHTS AWARDS

Nomination Deadline: February 1

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance

Individual Award—recognizes an educator who has made outstanding contributions to professional and human rights (nominee must be a TSTA member and be nominated by the local PHCR and executive committees).

Special Award—recognizes an individual or organization inside or outside the area of education for outstanding contributions to professional and human rights (recipient does not have to be a member of TSTA unless eligible but must be nominated by a TSTA affiliated association).

Mickey Leland Memorial Award—recognizes individuals or organizations that have initiated/participated in activities establishing an ongoing program or institution having a widespread social, educational, economic, or political impact, especially those projects that help the needy.

Willie Velasquez Memorial Award—recognizes individuals or organizations that have initiated/participated in activities to eradicate inequities based on race, gender, or ethnicity and to improve

TSTA/NEA EVENT DATES	
OCTOBER	
16	TSTA/NEA ESP Conference, Dallas
16	TSTA Credentials, Bylaws and Elections Committee Meeting, TSTA Headquarters, Austin
NOVEMBER	
1	Submission Deadline: Instructional Award Plan
5-6	NEA All-Committee Weekend, Washington, DC
6	TSTA Committee Meeting, TSTA Headquarters, Austin
8-9	NEA Executive Committee Meeting, Washington, DC
14-20	American Education Week
17	National ESP Day
25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday (TSTA Offices Closed)
DECEMBER	
1	Submission Deadline: Friend of Education Award and Frank J. Tejada Award for Public Service

inter-group relations and understanding, especially those projects that help the politically disenfranchised become more involved in the political process.

NEA Awards—TSTA also encourages regional and local affiliates or individuals to nominate an individual, organization and/or a region or local affiliate for an NEA Human and Civil Rights Award. For NEA forms and information visit: www.nea.org/grants/17859.htm. NEA Award nominations must be postmarked by December 10, 2010.

ERMALEE BOICE INSTRUCTIONAL ADVOCACY AWARD

Nomination Deadline: February 1

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Executive and Governance

Open to all TSTA members, this award recognizes and promotes teaching excellence based on the following criteria: professional practice, advocacy for the profession, community engagement, leadership in professional development and attention to diversity. The

recipient of this award will be submitted as TSTA's nominee for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, so nominees for the Boice award should comply with the guidelines provided for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence (www.neafoundation.org).

PRIDE IN COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Nomination Deadline: March 1

Submit to: TSTA Organizing Center for Public Affairs

Recognizes regional association newsletters and web sites. Entries are judged on the extent to which the local and/or regional association programs are identified and explained.

Detailed information, instructions and nomination forms are available on TSTA's website at www.tsta.org/news/current/awards.shtml. You may also call the Center for Executive and Governance or the Center for Public Affairs at (877) ASK-TSTA for more information.

National **delegate** elections

We're headed to Chicago for the 2011 NEA Representative Assembly (RA) July 2-5. Pre-RA meetings and workshops begin on June 24. The first Texas Caucus meeting will be on June 30.



The exact number of delegates from Texas will be determined by our TSTA/NEA membership as of January 15, 2011. TSTA will be allocated one state delegate for every 1,000 Active (Professional or ESP) and Active Life Active NEA members, and locals will be allocated one local delegate for every 150 members, or major fraction thereof.

NEA has established a policy of encouraging ethnic-minority representation reflective of the ethnic make-up of the state's population. The goal for TSTA is to elect at least 48% of our total delegation from among our ethnic-minority members. We cannot accomplish this goal unless all of our leaders and caucuses help recruit ethnic-minority candidates to run for delegate positions at both the state and local levels, and it is most important that the elected delegates attend the RA.

TSTA does not fund state delegates to the NEA-RA, though they may receive a small stipend, budget permitting. Some regions

and a few locals provide some funding for state delegates.

Below you will find some of the specific requirements and timelines for election of state and local association delegates. Anyone with questions about the elections, or needing other information about the process, should contact Sandra Solimine at TSTA, 877-ASK-TSTA, ext. 1514 or email sandras@tsta.org.

Please note that we cannot determine until after January 15 exactly how many state delegates we will elect or exactly how we will elect them. At least one state delegate will be elected on a statewide ballot. The remaining state delegates will be allocated to individual regions or to clusters of regions or, possibly, statewide. They will be allocated in a manner to comply with NEA rules on one-person, one-vote, and in accordance with TSTA policy.

STATE DELEGATES

The Advocate containing ballots for the election of state delegates should be received by members

by late March 2011. Deadline for return receipt of ballots at TSTA is April 29, 2011, by 5 p.m.

NEA requires that all elections for state and local delegates must be conducted by open nominations and secret ballots. At the end of this article you will find a nomination form to seek election as a state delegate to the 2011 NEA RA. If you would like to run for a delegate position, please complete the form (or a copy of it) and return it to TSTA.

The form must be received by the Center for Executive and Governance at TSTA no later than January 7, 2011, in order for your name to appear on the printed ballot.

Each candidate for state delegate is entitled to have his or her name published in the Advocate, along with a biographical sketch of 25 words or less, which may include ethnic status.

NEA also requires proportional representation for supervisory and non-supervisory members. In order to ensure this is not violated, supervisory members are not eligible to run for state delegate as outlined above. Instead, all supervisory members are eligible to run in a separate election for Category 2 State At-Large Delegate (which also includes NEA Active Life Retired members).

In addition, supervisory members who also are members of a local may run in the statewide supervisory cluster election unless their local is not a part of that cluster. Locals are removed

from this cluster only if their inclusion would cost the local a non-supervisory delegate. Locals will be notified in February if they have been removed from the cluster.

Supervisory members desiring to seek election as a delegate should complete and return the nomination form (marking the appropriate box to run for a Category 2 delegate) along with the 25-word statement. Those supervisory members that return the form and who are eligible to run in the supervisory cluster will automatically be included on the ballot for that election as well.

Again, if you have questions please call Sandra Solimine at 877-ASK-TSTA, ext. 1514, or email sandras@tsta.org.

LOCAL DELEGATES

Since local associations are allocated one delegate for each 150 NEA members or major fraction thereof, a local must have at least 76 members (Active and Life) to qualify for a delegate. Locals with fewer than 76 members may cluster together for the purpose of electing local delegates. If you are a member in one of these smaller locals and would like to be a delegate, please contact Sandra Solimine as described above.

NEA will notify locals in mid-February of the number of delegates allocated for each local. Locals will be provided official NEA forms for reporting data about local delegates and alternates ("successor delegates").

Those completed forms must

be received by TSTA no later than April 10, 2011, in order to ensure proper credentials at the NEA RA. Locals must conduct an election that provides for open nominations and secret ballots. That can be done either by delivering a nomination form to each member (using a local newsletter is permissible), then ensuring each member gets a ballot with the names of those returning the

form, or by holding an all-member meeting, with proper notice to each member, and accepting nominations at the meeting, then voting by secret ballot.

RETIRED DELEGATES

TSTA-Retired/NEA-Retired members may run as either retired delegates or state delegates. The two elections have different eligibility requirements. (1) The

Retired Delegate Nomination Form is for a TSTA-R/NEA-R member who seeks election as a TSTA-R/NEA-R delegate. The deadline for submitting a nomination form (and an optional biographical sketch of 25 words or less) is January 15, 2011. For this election, one delegate is allocated for the first 50 TSTA-R/NEA-R members and an additional delegate for each

additional 1,000 TSTA-R/NEA-R members. (2) A retired member who was an NEA Active Life member while teaching may seek election as a Category 2 State At-Large delegate by completing and returning the state delegate Nomination Form and checking the Category 2 box. Those who are eligible to run in both elections must choose; they may file in only one election.

RETIRED DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY TSTA/NEA-RETIRED DELEGATE POSITIONS—JUNE 30-JULY 5, 2011

Deadline for receipt at TSTA Headquarters is January 15, 2011, 5:00 p.m. (This form is also available online at www.tsta.org)

(Circle One: Mr. Ms.) Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Day Phone _____
 Email _____ Last 4 Digits Soc. Sec. No. _____

ETHNIC GROUP: (Check all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Multi-ethnic
 Black Hispanic Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin) Other _____
 Check here if you do not want your ethnicity printed
 Enclosed is my biographical sketch of 25 words or less which will be sent with the ballot. (Note: If your statement exceeds 25 words, it will be cut at 25 words.)
 Check here if you will be a first-time delegate

Send by U.S. Mail or FAX (512-486-7043) to: TSTA-Retired, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Signature of Nominee _____

STATE DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

2011 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY STATE DELEGATES

Deadline for receipt at TSTA Headquarters is January 7, 2011. (This form is also available online at www.tsta.org)

NOMINEE FOR: (Check one)

- State At-Large Delegate: Category 1—Teacher, ESP or other Non-Supervisor
 State At-Large Delegate: Category 2—Supervisor or NEA Active Life Retired*
 Statewide Supervisory Cluster—Supervisors who are members of a local association**

*NEA Active Life Retired—NEA Active Life member while teaching and now retired

**Supervisory members whose local chooses not to participate in the cluster are not eligible to run in this election.

(Circle One: Mr. Ms.) Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email _____ Last 4 Digits Soc. Sec. No. _____

Local Association _____ TSTA Region _____ Work Site _____
 Position (Teacher, Principal, ESP, etc.) _____ Supervisory Non-Supervisory

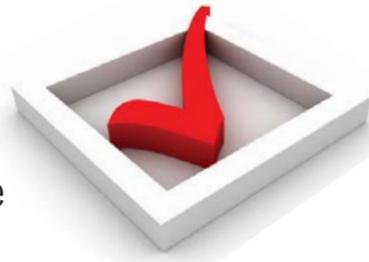
ETHNIC GROUP: (Check all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaska Native Asian Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Multi-ethnic
 Black Hispanic Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin) Other _____
 Check here if you do not want your ethnicity printed
 Enclosed is my biographical sketch of 25 words or less which will be published in the spring *Advocate*. (Note: If your statement exceeds 25 words, it will be cut at 25 words.)
 Check here if you will be a first-time delegate

Send to: Sandra Solimine, TSTA, Organizing Center for Executive and Governance, 316 W. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701; or email to sandras@tsta.org or fax to 512-486-7053

Signature of Nominee _____

TSTA state convention delegate elections



If you are in a local that does not qualify for a delegate but you are interested in becoming a delegate, contact TSTA's Center for Executive and Governance to participate in a cluster election.

State delegate allocations for local associations (including Texas Faculty Association) to the April 15-16, 2011, TSTA House of Delegates will be sent to local presidents on January 25. Delegates are allocated to locals in a ratio of one delegate for every 50 members or major fraction based on the local's Active Professional, Active ESP and Active Life membership on January 15, 2011. The policy regarding election of delegates, forms and timelines will accompany the allocation. If a local wishes to conduct its election for delegates prior to January 15, it may do so and keep a list of delegates in the order of votes received. When the local delegate allocation is received by the local, then the top vote getters who are delegates are listed as delegates and the remaining vote getters are listed as alternates.

Contact Sandra Solimine in the Center for Executive and Governance at 877-ASK-TSTA, ext. 1514, or sandras@tsta.org with questions regarding the elections.

ATTENTION, RETIRED MEMBERS:

According to the TSTA Bylaws, retired at-large delegates for the state House of Delegates are allocated to TSTA-Retired/NEA-Retired members. The number of at-large TSTA-R delegates will be based on TSTA-Retired membership as of January 15, 2011. In order to run for a TSTA-R at-large delegate position, a candidate must be a member of TSTA-R and NEA-R.

These at-large retired delegates are allocated in the ratio of one delegate for every 75 members or major fraction thereof. Nomination forms must be received by January 15, 2011. Ballots for the election will be sent to members in early February 2011. The deadline for returning ballots to TSTA Headquarters is March 3, 2011.

Any retired member who is a TSTA-R/NEA-R member may nominate himself/herself or another qualified member for a retired delegate position.

NOMINATION FORM

RETIRED AT-LARGE DELEGATE POSITIONS—TSTA HOUSE OF DELEGATES—APRIL 15-16, 2011

The deadline for receipt of this nomination form at TSTA's Headquarters is January 15, 2011. (This form is also available online at www.tsta.org.)

(Circle One: Mr. Ms.) Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Day Phone _____

Email _____ Last 4 Digits Soc. Sec. No. _____

ETHNIC GROUP: (Check all that apply)

- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-ethnic
- Black
- Hispanic
- Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin)
- Other _____
- Check here if you do not want your ethnicity printed
- Enclosed is my biographical sketch of 25 words or less which will be sent with the ballot. (Note: If your statement exceeds 25 words, it will be cut at 25 words.)
- Check here if you will be a first-time delegate

Send by U.S. Mail or FAX (512-486-7043) to: TSTA-Retired, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

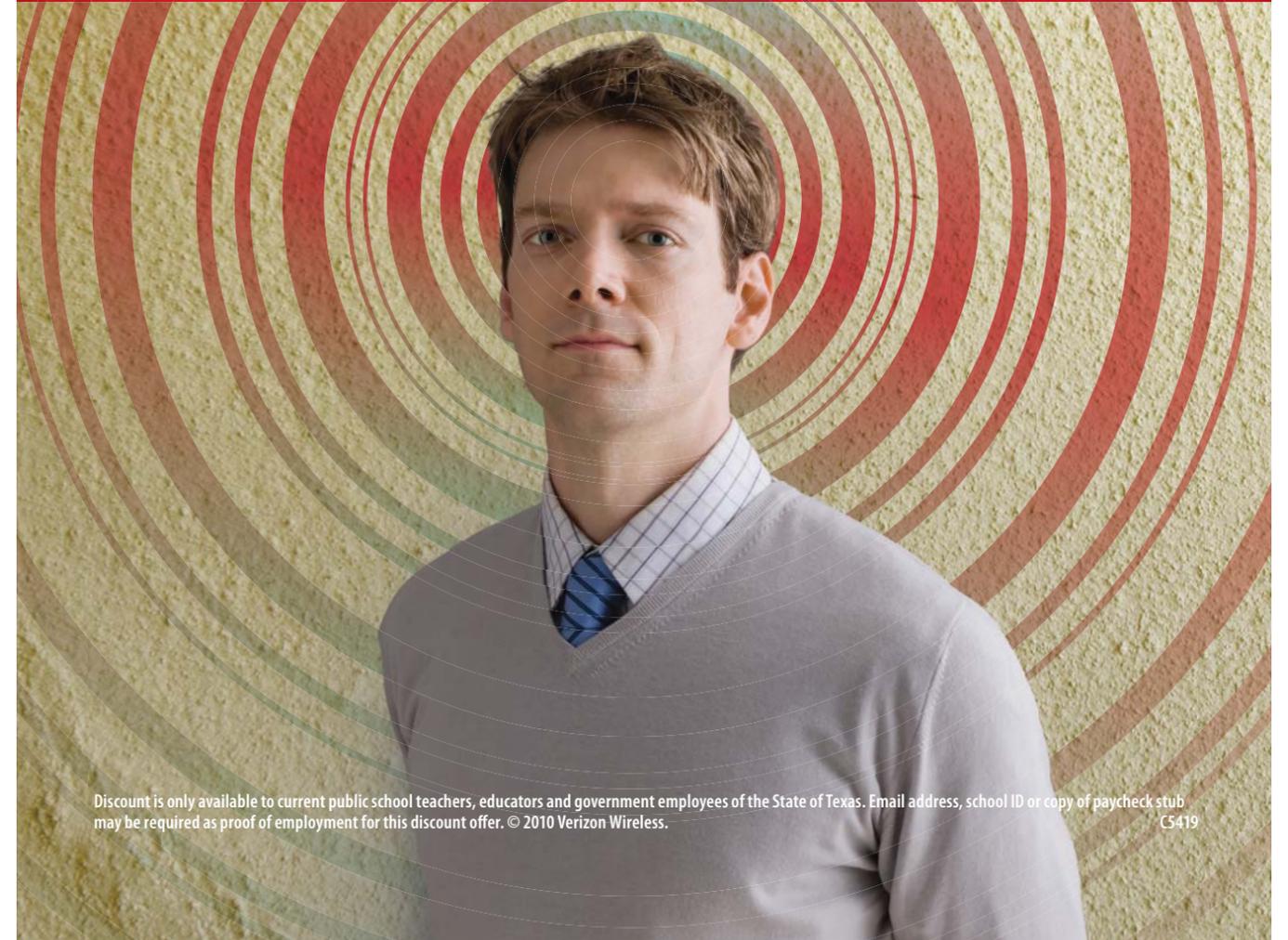
Signature of Nominee _____

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TSTA/NEA
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2010-11 ENROLLMENT FORM

Please return this completed form to your Association Representative or mail to TSTA Membership Department, 316 West 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-1892. If you have questions, call **877-ASK-TSTA**.

NAME			SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER			DATE OF BIRTH		
ADDRESS			LOCAL ASSOCIATION			HIRE DATE		
CITY		STATE	ZIP		NAME OF ISD			
EMAIL AT HOME			CAMPUS/WORKSITE					
EMAIL AT WORK			POSITION (I.E. CLASSROOM TEACHER, LIBRARIAN, BUS DRIVER, ETC.)					
AREA CODE	HOME PHONE	AREA CODE	WORK PHONE					

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ANNUAL DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS	AMOUNT
	1. Professional Dues—TSTA/NEA (Active)	\$456.00
	Professional Dues—New to the profession	\$311.00
	2. Educational Support Dues—Full-time	\$241.50
	Educational Support Dues—Part-time	\$126.00
	3. NEA Fund for Children and Public Education (suggested amount \$15.00)	
	4. TSTA-PAC (see disclaimer below)	\$ 9.00
	5. Region Dues	
	6. Local Association Dues	
TOTAL DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS		

NOTE: Membership must include local and region dues if eligible.

ETHNICITY/GENDER

American Indian/Alaska Native Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 Black Unknown
 Hispanic Multi-ethnic
 Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin) Other
 Asian

Gender: Male Female

This information is optional and failure to provide it will in no way affect your membership status, rights or benefits in NEA, TSTA or any of their affiliates. This information will be kept confidential.

METHOD OF PAYMENT/PAYROLL DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION (BELOW)

I hereby authorize the _____ School District to deduct the total amount of the annual obligation as set by the appropriate Association governance bodies in _____ equal payments in order to pay my dues to the professional associations and organizations listed and for political action contributions indicated. The authorization will continue in effect for this school year and future years, including any increase that may occur, until I give written notice to the local by September 15 to revoke. I further authorize any unpaid annual balance to be deducted from my final check. The Local Association or TSTA/NEA will notify School District officials of the annual dues amounts for all levels of the Association each year.

_____ Please check if you would like to receive TSTA's electronic newsletter, the *TSTA Briefing*, which is distributed by email at least once a week.
 Send to: home email address work email address

The TSTA Political Action Committee (TSTA-PAC) and the National Education Association Fund for Children and Public Education collect voluntary contributions from Association members and use these contributions for political purposes, including, but not limited to, making contributions to and expenditures on behalf of friends of public education who are candidates for federal office. Only U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents may contribute to the NEA Fund. Contributions to the NEA Fund are voluntary; making a contribution is neither a condition of employment nor membership in the Association, and members have the right to refuse to contribute without suffering any reprisal. Although The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education requests an annual contribution of \$15, this is only a suggestion. A member may contribute more or less than the suggested amount, or may contribute nothing at all, without it affecting his or her membership status, rights, or benefits in NEA or any of its affiliates.

Contributions or gifts to The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, TSTA-PAC and local PACs are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Federal law prohibits The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education from receiving donations from persons other than members of NEA and its affiliates, and their immediate families. All donations from persons other than members of NEA and its affiliates, and their immediate families, will be returned forthwith.

"I decline to contribute to TSTA-PAC and I understand this will not in any way affect my membership status or rights." _____ INITIAL

Former student member?
 YES NO

Annual membership dues to NEA include \$5.65 for NEA Today, \$3.40 for NEA-Retired, \$3.40 for Tomorrow's Teacher and/or \$5.60 for the Higher Education publications. The NEA publication(s) received by members are based on membership category. Annual membership dues to TSTA include subscription to the TSTA Advocate. Membership is open only to those who agree to subscribe to the goals and objectives of the Association and to abide by its constitution and bylaws.

Dues payments are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues payments (or a portion) may be deductible as a miscellaneous itemized deduction.

Legal Liability Coverage: Members of TSTA/NEA are automatically covered by \$6 million for most legal claims (\$300,000 for civil rights claims) while acting in the scope of employment. \$1 million is underwritten by the AIG Companies or successor provider selected by NEA. \$5 million excess is underwritten by United National Ins. Co., an A.M. Best Rated A+ (superior) carrier or successor provider selected by TSTA. Coverage is subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies which are available to members upon request by calling the TSTA Help Center at 877-ASK-TSTA. Notice required by Art. 21.54 of the Texas Insurance Code: These insurers may not be subject to all the laws and regulations of Texas. The insurance solvency guarantee fund may not be available to you or to TSTA.

Employment Defense: To be considered for legal services for job protection, membership is required for at least 30 days before the member knew or should have known of the events or occurrences leading up to the action complained about. Pre-existing conditions will not be pursued, except by discretion of TSTA.

MEMBER SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____ LOCAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE _____

For the latest news, go to www.tsta.org.

Texas State Teachers Association

316 West 12th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

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Eat Healthy. Get Active. Make a Difference.

Funding Opportunities for Fuel Up to Play 60 Are Available to Help Schools Make Healthy Changes!

Fuel Up to Play 60, the in-school nutrition and physical activity program launched by National Dairy Council,* Dairy MAX and the National Football League, in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is helping to make wellness part of the game plan in more than 60,000 schools across the country.

New for the 2010-2011 school year, funding opportunities for Fuel Up to Play 60 are available to K-12 schools enrolled in the program. The competitive, nationwide funding program is designed to help schools jumpstart and sustain healthy nutrition and physical activity improvements.

Whether you're just starting out with **Fuel Up to Play 60** or looking to expand and extend an initiative that's already in motion, funds for **Fuel Up to Play 60** can help. Learn more at FuelUpToPlay60.com.



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