

# Advocate

Texas State Teachers Association/National Education Association

FALL 2004

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INSIDE IS YOUR TSTA/NEA MEMBERSHIP CARD

# A far superior method

Welcome back. I hope your school year has had a successful beginning. After a restful, relaxing, but oh so brief summer vacation, I know many of you spend the summer “recharging your batteries” in preparation for the busy upcoming school year.

I had a very full calendar this past summer with many meetings, some more productive than others, as is always the case. Two meetings were of particular importance and

relevance to me and the members who serve on the TSTA Collective Bargaining Task Force.

If you recall, a 2003 House of Delegates motion was passed which called for TSTA to develop a long-range plan to achieve collective bargaining rights for Texas public school employees. Subsequently, I assembled a task force com-

prised of leaders, members, and staff, and charged them with the responsibility of developing a plan. The CB Task Force, chaired by Kaye Overand and Vice President Ann Heuberger as vice chair, has met three times since last January.

Although Texas law prohibits bargaining for public school employees, it is permissible for school districts to adopt a policy for “consulting” with representative groups. Such policies may be exclusive for a single group or local association, or may call for some type

of multi-group committee.

In my 25 years as a teacher, I had first hand experience with working in two school districts, one with an exclusive consultation policy that had been in place since 1975 (Austin ISD) and another district that had no such policy (Clear Creek ISD.) The Austin Association of Teachers (now Education Austin) was the exclusive consultation agent, representing all professional, non-supervisory personnel in Austin ISD in matters of salaries, benefits, working conditions and educational policy. Agreements reached between AAT and the school board were added to school district policy.

I was elected to serve on the consultation team for several years and eventually became its chairperson. Meetings between our consultation team and the board team were very stimulating and often heated, but we were bound by a policy that usually benefited our constituents. In contrast, the lack of such a policy in Clear Creek ISD limited our local to fairly irregular meetings with the superintendent. These meetings and presentations made before the board were the only avenue we had to present our requests concerning salaries, benefits, working conditions and educational policy.

I can assure you that exclusive consultation is a far superior method for dealing with school boards in representing school employees.

To be successful, a strong, effective local is of paramount importance. If we in Texas are

ever to gain collective bargaining rights, our locals need to achieve exclusive consultation status and thereby demonstrate that a change in the law is possible, even desirable, because school districts and their employees need to work harmoniously to create the best school districts to serve our children.

The CB Task Force will continue its work by educating our members as to what exclusive consultation is and what it can do to improve schools and employee relations. (See article, page 10.)

Thanks to Kaye and Ann for agreeing to chair this formidable committee. Other members are Executive Director E.C. Walker, Brenda Urps-Williams and Ruben Valdez (Austin), Rachel Martinez (San Antonio Alliance), John Hand (San Benito), Hilda Ortiz (Ysleta), Paula Favela (El Paso), Mary Denise Smith (Dallas), Joel Rosenzweig (Richardson), Willie Mae McIntyre (Pasadena), Wayne Ward (Corsicana), Irene Sayers (Frisco), staff members Tim Bacon, Gerald Haschke and Charles Axe, and I.

Our information effort and plans for locals will be ongoing. We are excited by the possibilities!

Don't forget November 2 is Election Day. Your vote is critical for our endorsed candidates (see page 9 for state candidates and our web site, [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org), for federal candidates).




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House party in Katy. Front: Carol Kovac, retired teacher; Liz, concerned parent; Patti Wilhoit, KISD teacher; A.J. Duranni, concerned Katy citizen. Middle: Ann Hoar, retired teacher; Jackie Joseph, KISD teacher; Sharon Thompson, retired public school teacher (currently teaching in a private school); Mary Jean Holcomb, KISD teacher. Back: Tess Zimmerman, concerned parent; Jan Adam, past president of TSTA-Katy; Marva, concerned citizen; John Martinez, candidate for U.S. Representative; Carrie Lowery, co-president of TSTA-Katy; Tom Hoar, concerned citizen; Barrett Ross, co-president of TSTA-Katy.

## Thousands mobilize for great public schools

Tens of thousands of teachers, parents and concerned citizens participated in nearly 4,000 “house parties” nationwide September 22 in a grassroots effort to elevate the issue of public education in the current policy debate.

The gatherings were part of the National Mobilization for Great Public Schools, organized by NEA and others. Discussion centered on key issues relating to public education, among them the lack of access to health care and early childhood programs, overcrowded classrooms, teachers being laid off or forced out of the profession, skyrocketing college costs and a federal education law that labels many public schools as failing without providing the resources

needed to succeed.

Participants pledged to recruit a specific number of friends, family and colleagues to sign a petition calling for increases in federal education funding, to call their members of Congress to ask them to fully fund education, and to register to vote.

“It is time to come together for our children’s future,”

said NEA President Reg Weaver. “Parents, teachers, students and concerned citizens from Alaska to Florida, Maine to Hawaii, are mobilizing to meet the challenges of ensuring that every child in America has access to a great public school. Tonight is only the beginning.” See [www.greatpublicschools.org](http://www.greatpublicschools.org) for more.



Fifty concerned students meet in the Education Building at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches for a house party.

**Parents, teachers, students and concerned citizens from Alaska to Florida, Maine to Hawaii, are mobilizing to meet the challenges of ensuring that every child in America has access to a great public school.**

# Some who pass Texas accountability may fail under the No Child Left Behind Act

Students, campuses and districts in Texas are graded using two different accountability systems. Under the Texas Accountability System, special education students and limited English proficient students may be assessed using a State Developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA) or Locally Developed Alternative Assessment (LDAA).

The admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee determines which assessment is appropriate for the student, based on the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). State statute authorizing the state's alternative assessment for students with

disabilities specifies that a student's passing standard be set by the IEP team instead of being set by the state.

Last year 10% of Texas students were tested using SDAA and LDAA. For purposes of the state accountability systems, students who take the SDAA or LDAA and score at the level set by their IEP are considered to have passed the test.

Under the accountability system established by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the percentage of students who can take the SDAA or LDAA with a passing standard below grade level is capped at 1% of the students

in the district. All students over the 1% cap are considered failures in determining the Average Yearly Progress (AYP) for the campus and district. As a result, approximately 9% of the students who passed under the Texas accountability system under the SDAA will be treated as failures under the NCLB.

The conflict between these two systems has led to protracted negotiations between Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) over determining AYP. Those negotiations ended when the DOE ordered TEA to immediately release the list of schools

that had failed to meet AYP for two years or forfeit \$7 million in federal administrative funds. TEA released the state accountability rating on September 30. They also notified 300 campuses in 189 districts that they have been rated low-performing based on their AYP. Title I schools in this category must implement a public school choice plan that will allow students in those schools to transfer to another school in the district.

TEA has one option left to get the DOE to reconsider its position on our use of the SDAA; and that is to request a peer review of our system. TEA has made that request and that review will take place in December.

All of the information on AYP, SDAA, etc., is now available online at [www.tea.state.tx.us/comm/page1.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/comm/page1.html).

## House parties, Texas style

Almost 100 house parties were held in Texas. Two of the hosts sent photos.

"We had 28 attendees including parents, teachers, retired teachers, concerned local Katy citizens, and three candidates running for office," teacher Jan Adam of Katy ISD said. "Our primary concerns for schools here in Katy: class sizes and both state and federal funding for NCLB. Attendees pledged to make calls in September, sign the petitions to send to Congress asking for full support of NCLB, and to recruit friends to join in the effort to make public schools a priority."

Christy Hemmerick, vice-president of the Stephen F. Austin State University chapter of TSTA-Student Program, held her house party on the Nacogdoches campus in the afternoon.

"We had small and large group discussions using the discussion questions in the packet," she said. "Our main concerns seemed to be funding, class size, and school conditions. We also felt strongly about urging Congress to step up and do their part. We all signed the petition, and we agreed that it is important to vote in the upcoming election. We had about 50 people attend, which is a great turnout for us!"

Rep. Talmadge Heflin; Hubert Vo, candidate for Texas House; and John Martinez, candidate for U.S. House, were among Adam's guests. They were not the only politicians involved: Rep. Lon Burnam (D-Fort Worth) hosted a house party, as did former Pakistani Ambassador Syed Ahsani of Arlington. Former Senator Carlos Truan attended a house party in Corpus Christi.



MaryJean Holcomb, TSTA-Katy treasurer; A.J. Duranni, concerned Katy citizen; Barrett Ross, TSTA-Katy co-president; Karen Schreiner, TSTA-Katy vice president; Mary Ann Reuter, TSTA Region 3B president; Carrie Lowery, TSTA-Katy co-president; John Martinez, candidate for U.S. representative; Hubert Vo, candidate for state representative; Talmadge Heflin, state representative and head of the House Appropriations Committee; and Jan Adam, TSTA-Katy past president.

## TRS ENDS HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT PLAN

TSTA has been fighting the implementation of the Health Reimbursement Account provisions since the last regular session of the legislature. After several attempts to stop the implementation failed, the Attorney General stepped in and voided the HRA contract and directed the Teacher Retirement System to send the health insurance stipend directly to school districts; the TRS Board concurred in September.

HRAs will not be implemented: we'll be using the same system as in 2003-04. Educational employees will be able to take the \$500 as salary or to pay for insurance. For more information, go to <http://www.trs.state.tx.us/>.

"TSTA commends the action of Attorney General Abbott, Lt. Governor Dewhurst, and Speaker Craddick to end the unnecessary and pointless

contract that charged every educational employee in Texas \$42 a year for a service they didn't need or want. We are also pleased to see that Abbott voided the provision that would have taken the decision away from educational employees on how to use the \$500," TSTA President Donna New Haschke told the press. "Unfortunately, the Attorney General didn't have the authority to restore the \$500 cut that every employee took in their health insurance benefits last session."

## NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS

The 2004-05 TSTA Board of Directors met for the first time in September at TSTA Headquarters in Austin. They are:

- TSTA President Donna New Haschke and Vice President Ann Heuberger
- NEA Texas Directors Rita Haecker, Wanda Nealy-Ward, and Jennifer Jones

- NEA At-Large Director administrator (nonvoting) Mike Buckner
- NEA At-Large Director educational support professional (nonvoting) Shirley M. Howard and Yolanda C. Molina
- NEA-Retired Director (nonvoting) Fran Valenzuela
- 1A Jill K. Graves, 1B Juan C. Moreno, 1C Arnold Guerra, 1D Susana Cerda, 2A Glenda Hawthorne, 2B Evelina "Evelyn" Loya, 2C Billy D. Hall, 2D Ann Lowes, 2E Rita Haecker, 3A Nicole Buckner, 3B Mary Ann Reuter, 3C Sherrie Matula, 3D Betty Gerhart, 3E Rhonda Schell, 3F Winifred Jackson, 4A Nancy Morgan, 4B Ginny Lee Evans, 4C Eugene Oehler, 4D Dale D. Kaiser, 4E Laurie Gidlow, Supervisory At-Large Jack R. Davis, Educational Support At-Large Yolanda C. Molina and Irene Sayers, TSTA-Retired (Elected by TSTA-R) Eddie Spence, Higher Education Member At-Large (Elected by TFA) Janet Schmelzer, TSTA-Student Program (Elected by TSTA-SP) Leester "Renay" Jones, President

## JUDGE FINDS TEXAS SCHOOL FINANCE SYSTEM UNCONSTITUTIONAL

The long-awaited ruling on Texas' school finance system is in. Finding the system unconstitutional because it fails to provide students an adequate, suitable education, Judge John Dietz gave the state one year to fix the school finance system or stop funding it.

"Are we prepared for a future in Texas that is dismally poor, needy, and ignorant?" Dietz asked.

"I have abundant optimism that the people of Texas are





willing to pay the price....It's the right thing to do," he concluded.

Watch the clip of Dietz's ruling: [www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=2305877&nav=0s3cQwwb](http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=2305877&nav=0s3cQwwb).

The attorney general said he plans to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court.

### SAVE THOSE RECEIPTS

The \$250 tax deduction for out-of-pocket classroom expenses incurred by teachers and paraprofessionals will be extended for the 2004 and 2005 tax years under House- and Senate-passed legislation (H.R. 1308) extending marriage penalty relief and the child tax credit.

In 2002, Congress passed legislation giving teachers and paraprofessionals a \$250 federal tax deduction for teacher and paraprofessional out-of-pocket expenses for instructional materials and classroom supplies. The legislation represented an acknowledgment—for the first time—that teachers and paraprofessionals are spending their own money to equip their classrooms. This modest tax break expired at the end of 2003.

NEA and some lawmakers worked throughout the year to reinstate the deduction and will continue to work to make the deduction permanent and to expand eligible

expenses to include professional development.

The tax bill also includes two other NEA victories: the extension of the Qualified Zone Academy Bond Program providing \$400 million each year in 2004 and 2005 for school construction, and extension of a tax deduction for corporations that donate computers to public schools. The President is expected to sign the bill into law shortly.

### FLORIDA NEA MEMBERS NEED HELP

Hurricanes have ripped through Florida; schools have been destroyed and educators and students are facing a year of double shifts. More than 100 Florida Education Association (FEA) members are homeless and the homes of more than 600 others have severe damage. Thousands of others will have to repair their less severely damaged homes and property. These folks are facing deductibles on their homeowners insurance that are, at minimum, two percent of the value of their homes. Some members are in danger of losing their homes. Many are looking at replacing all of their belongings.

►FEA leaders created a fund to aide those members with the greatest need. Checks can be made out to the FEA Hurricane Charley Relief Fund and

## OWL and nea.org to merge

In November, NEA will launch a revamped site. Though the URL will remain [nea.org](http://nea.org), the content will be targeted in much greater proportion toward educators.

An entire new area for members/educators will provide practical information and resources that will help on the job, advance professional development, and show the benefits of membership. This area will be "public" but it will house an area that is password-protected for NEA members only. Once inside, you will find a site that's co-branded with the TSTA logo and carries information on the NEA Fund, business items (NBIs, Resolutions), and resources for state and local leaders.

OWL will transition to the new [nea.org](http://nea.org); first, you will receive electronic notice that a change is coming, then you'll be automatically redirected to the new area once it's launched.

sent to: FEA Hurricane Charley Relief Fund, 213 S. Adams St., Tallahassee, FL 32301.

►Ysleta Teachers Association donated \$500, then passed the hat at a meeting of Association Representatives and collected \$241 more, for a total of \$741.

### TWO MEMBERS NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR!

Two TSTA members, Sheryl Lindemann and Gloria Voutos, have been selected as Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year and Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year, respectively. They were selected out of more than 288,000 Texas teachers.

Voutos is a third-grade bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Spring Valley Elementary School in the Richardson ISD.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force, she completed the teacher preparation program at Southern Methodist University.

Lindemann is an all-level Advanced Placement and Pre-International Baccalaureate social studies teacher at the Hirschi Math/Science International Baccalaureate High School in the Wichita Falls ISD. A Wichita Falls native, she has been teaching for 15 years.

Lindemann was selected as the Texas nominee for the National Teacher of the Year honors, which will be announced by the Council of Chief State School Officers next April.

The six finalists, along with the other 34 Regional Teachers of the Year, will be honored at a luncheon on October 30 at the Marriott at the Capitol in Austin. Each Regional Teacher of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize as well as an award commemorating their achievement.

The two Texas Teachers of the Year will receive \$5,000 in cash prizes, a \$15,000 technology package, plus awards and other mementos.

## Children's Book Week starts November 15

Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated Children's Book Week during the week before Thanksgiving. This year's Children's Book Week is November 15-21 and the theme is "Let's Book." An inspiring selection of materials are available online, including: Children's Book Week poster by Chris Raschka; a frieze by Vladimir Radunsky; streamers by Sandra Boynton, Shane Evans, and Howard Fine; a bookmark with a poem by John Lithgow, illustrated by Lisa Cohen; and much more. [www.cbcbooks.org/html/book\\_week.html](http://www.cbcbooks.org/html/book_week.html)

And don't forget about NEA's Read Across America, coming March 2. For the early planners among you, you can find ideas and materials at [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).

# Exclusive consultation: one way you can have a voice

Why wait for collective bargaining to start helping your school district make good decisions about the policies that affect you and your kids every day?

Every local association should strive to establish for employees a formal role in the development of the policies that affect them and the quality of their educational program.

It only stands to reason, for example, that the knowledge and expertise of teachers should be utilized when se-

lecting textbooks, solving staff transfer problems, determining class size, and the like.

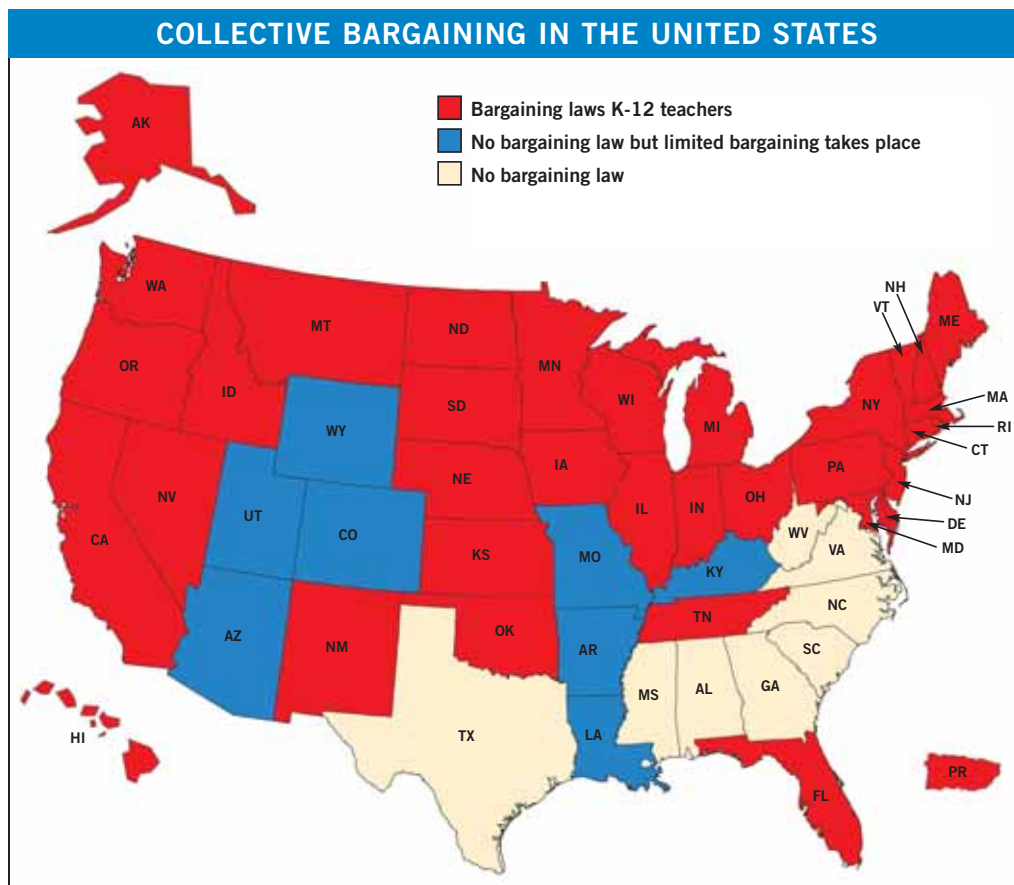
In most states, such input is accomplished through collective bargaining, but currently, Texas law prohibits public school districts from collectively bargaining with employees; it is one of TSTA's legislative goals to see that

this law is repealed. A motion was passed by the 2003 House of Delegates which called for TSTA to develop a long-range plan to achieve collective bargaining rights for Texas public school employees. As a result, President Donna New Haschke appointed a task force of leaders, members, and staff to work toward this goal.

But local associations do not need to wait for collective bargaining. A formal role in the development of education policies can also be achieved through exclusive consultation, which is not prohibited under Texas law.

Like collective bargaining, exclusive consultation is a formal process in which one organization is elected by employees to be the exclusive representative for all education employees in the district. It's a process, mutually agreed upon by school district administrators and employees, by which problems can be addressed. It takes place at the school district level and can be used to jointly decide conditions of employment, including salary, hours, and other personnel or curriculum issues of mutual concern.

Through consultation, every local association can and should present to its local school board a comprehen-



sive package of proposals on matters of concern to members. These proposals might cover procedures for formalizing employee input on education policies, salaries, fringe benefits, class size, leave time, instructional matters, grievance procedures, assignments, extracurricular activities, workload, and other concerns.

“If school districts could see how effective exclusive consultation is in preventing grievances, solving problems and keeping employees, they would see that collective bargaining is not a bad thing,” says President Haschke, who taught for many years in Austin ISD where exclusive consultation is utilized. “It resolves conflicts and opens conversation.”

If you want to secure a more meaningful voice for employees in your school district, give us a call at 877-ASK-TSTA. We can help.



Austin ISD has for many years enjoyed an exclusive consultation arrangement with its employees, who are represented by Education Austin (EA), a joint TSTA/TFT local association. In July, EA President Louis Malfaro and Superintendent Pat Forgione signed agreement on an \$18 million compensation and benefits package, which includes fully paid employee-only health insurance for regular employees, a minimum \$1,640 raise for teachers, a 4.2% raise for classified employees based on the midpoint, and \$500,000 for a mentoring program for new teachers. The school board, community leaders, and EA members recently teamed up to win the biggest school bond election in AISD history—\$520 million.

## Why should you have a voice in your school?

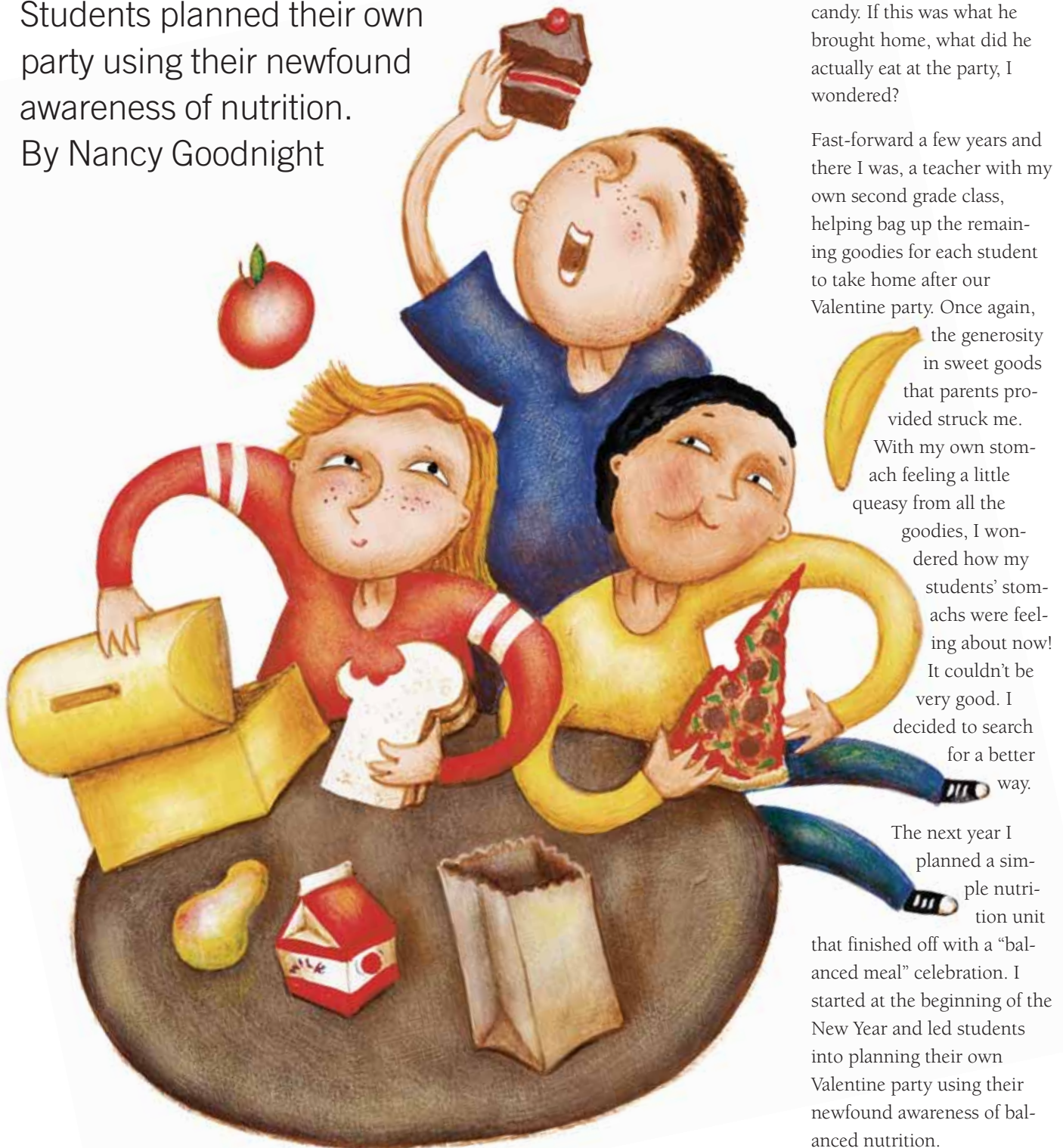
- Exclusive consultation brings effective employee input on school policies. It only stands to reason that you should be involved in discussions about quality issues, such as time to teach, professional development, and implementation of new standards.
- It's a way of improving the quality of education for children; research shows that school districts in which employees have input have better qualified staff and their teachers spend more time on task (i.e., teaching).
- It's not so much about the specific discussions as it is about developing a relationship that helps the schools to be effective. A good employee-employer relationship is built on honesty, trust, confidentiality, shared information, and no surprises. If you have those things, employees will feel better about working in a school—and that's good for students, parents and the whole community.
- We face the same economic and political pressures. If we work together, we will be able to deal with those pressures together.



# Heart Smart Learners

Students planned their own party using their newfound awareness of nutrition.

By Nancy Goodnight



When my son was in second grade, he came home from his class Valentine party, backpack loaded with valentines, torn envelopes, cellophane-wrapped suckers, and, at the bottom, a baggie filled with a smashed cupcake, and a goldmine of candy. If this was what he brought home, what did he actually eat at the party, I wondered?

Fast-forward a few years and there I was, a teacher with my own second grade class, helping bag up the remaining goodies for each student to take home after our Valentine party. Once again,

the generosity in sweet goods that parents provided struck me. With my own stomach feeling a little queasy from all the goodies, I wondered how my students' stomachs were feeling about now! It couldn't be very good. I decided to search for a better way.

The next year I planned a simple nutrition unit that finished off with a "balanced meal" celebration. I started at the beginning of the New Year and led students into planning their own Valentine party using their newfound awareness of balanced nutrition.

## HEALTHY VALENTINES

My class learned about “5 a day,” the food pyramid, and planning a menu.

We did reading skills while acting out a play on the food groups.

Writing exercises included brainstorming foods we liked from each food group, then making and categorizing them into lists. We planned our menu, dividing up who would bring what (with permission from home) and made invitations to parents.

Math activities involved calculating the cost of each food used in a balanced meal (items were marked at bargain prices to match students’ math skills) and they created their own word problems.

In social studies we took a look at food-related goods and services available in our own community.

We explored types and uses of plants in science.

Our P.E. teacher also taught about keeping hearts healthy through diet and exercise.

The class settled on calling it our “Heart Smart” Valentine party. Parents seemed a little hesitant to accept that their children actually requested things like carrots, celery, bananas, strawberries, cheese cubes, and crackers!

The students, as the hosts and hostesses, expressed pride of ownership in the party. Parents were amazed at the results. It seemed a bit calmer and relaxed as

children played games and opened cards.

I use the “Heart Smart” Valentine party’s nutrition unit each year. I have taught a variety of children, from at-risk and inclusion classes to gifted and talented classes. We have had an eclectic choice of menus including “pigs in a blanket,” Subway sandwiches, beef brisket, fruit pizza and vegetable trays, all balanced with other food groups.

Surprisingly, I have met mild resistance only from students of higher income families. In addition to foods from the five food groups at their parties, the abundance of sweets prevailed, reminiscent of my son’s second grade class years ago.

## DANGEROUS TRENDS

It is ironic that Valentine’s Day, the holiday that uses a heart as its symbol, encourages the very foods that lead to possible heart disease. The facts are overwhelming. A report by the Texas Department of Agriculture, called “Nutrition Project,” states:

► Obesity in U.S. children has doubled in the past 20 years.

► Obesity is the fastest growing cause of illness and death, killing one American every 90 seconds.

► 35% of Texas school age children are overweight or obese, higher than the national average.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently projected:

## USEFUL WEBSITES

**Texas Agriculture Department** [www.squaremeals.com](http://www.squaremeals.com)

**University of Texas** [www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/catch/about.htm](http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/catch/about.htm)

**Fantastic Food Challenge**

[www.commtechlab.msu.edu/products/foodchallenge.html](http://www.commtechlab.msu.edu/products/foodchallenge.html)

**VERB. It’s what you do** [www.verbnow.com](http://www.verbnow.com)

**National Dairy Council** [www.nutritionexplorations.org](http://www.nutritionexplorations.org)

**Powerful Bones, Powerful Girls** [www.cdc.gov/powerfulbones](http://www.cdc.gov/powerfulbones)

**Kidnetic.com** [www.kidnetic.com](http://www.kidnetic.com)

**Brain POP** [www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com)

**BAM! Body & Mind** [www.bam.gov](http://www.bam.gov)

**Sci4Kids** [www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids](http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids)

**Clueless in the Mall** <http://calcium.tamu.edu>

**HHS Pages for Kids** [www.hhs.gov/kids](http://www.hhs.gov/kids)

**Hey Teens** [www.kidshealth.org/teen/index.html](http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/index.html)

**Why Milk?** [www.whymilk.com](http://www.whymilk.com)

**Nutrition Cafe** <http://exhibits.pacsci.org/nutrition>

► Boys born in 2000 have more than a 30% lifetime risk of developing diabetes.

► Girls born in 2000 have almost a 40% risk!

► One longitudinal study showed 61% of overweight children between ages 5 and 10 had one or more cardiovascular disease risk factors. In addition, obese children often struggle with self esteem and suffer from depression.

These statistics and many others prompted the Texas Department of Agriculture to drastically revamp the Nutrition Guidelines for Public Schools. Foods that have minimal nutritional value (FMNVs) were virtually banned in public schools. Last summer, the Guidelines were revised. Among other changes, FMNVs are now permitted at up to three

school-wide events with campus approval and cupcakes are allowed for classroom birthday parties. (See the Agriculture Department’s [www.squaremeals.com](http://www.squaremeals.com) for details.)

How much emphasis will be placed on balancing FMNVs with more nutritionally valuable foods at these events? The answer lies in teachers providing students and parents with the best information on nutrition. It can be fun as well as informational! A weeklong unit in what a balanced meal looks like can open up many ways throughout the year to involve students and parents in thinking “heart smart.” Is it worth the effort? Four million Texas schoolchildren are counting on it!

—Nancy Goodnight is a teacher in Alvin ISD.



### STAPLES: \$22,000 RAISED IN TEXAS ALONE

The NEA Foundation's Innovation Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants are supported in part by Staples Recycle for Education, a program that raises funds nationwide for public education.

The next time you start to throw a used cartridge in the trash, remember: Staples donates \$1 for every eligible used inkjet and laser toner cartridge recycled at any of its 1,100 stores.

Since the program began in July 2003, Staples has raised more than \$1 million. Texas has raised more than \$21,430 for public education through this program; in return, \$22,000 has been awarded to Texas educators in the form of grants. That's more than 100%!

The program is continuing through 2004. Each dollar raised supports public education in the state where the cartridge was recycled. For more information on this program, visit [www.neafoundation.org/staples.htm](http://www.neafoundation.org/staples.htm).

## Tell Us Your Dreams!

The NEA Foundation is looking for Texans with big dreams.

Since 2000, the NEA Foundation has funded hundreds of Innovation and Learning

and Leadership Grants.

Innovation Grants fund break-the-mold innovations that significantly improve student achievement for underserved learners. Innovation

grantees collaborate with their colleagues, challenge their students, experiment with creative instructional ideas and develop professionally.

Learning and Leadership Grants provide public educators with opportunities to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth.

People receiving Learning and Leadership grants then share their newly acquired knowledge

and skills with their colleagues. This spirit of cooperation and sharing helps to strengthen public education.

Applications for Innovation Grants and Learning and Leadership Grants are accepted on an ongoing, year-round basis and reviewed three times per year, in September, February, and June.

These grants are available for all subjects, including the arts, literature, science, mathematics, social sciences, and technology. They are funded in part by Staples Recycle for Education (see article above).

All practicing U.S. public school K-12 teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000.

Visit the foundation's website, [www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org), or call 202-822-7840 for application details.







## INNOVATION

**JUDY LEINIUS, SAN ANTONIO**  
**6TH TO 8TH GRADE CAMPUS**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINA-**  
**TOR, RHODES MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**PARTNERS: BERTHA MAYORGA,**  
**DENISE MEACHAM, RAY**  
**PALENCIA, JOHN RICHBOURG**

At-risk students at Jeremiah Rhodes Middle School learn how to build computers to increase their technology and critical-thinking skills. After the students research the components, they assemble the computers for the school library. To increase parental involvement, middle school teachers develop classes for parents to teach them how to access online resources.

## INNOVATION

**JOYCE ROBERTA MILLER-**  
**ALPER, HOUSTON**  
**12TH GRADE TEACHER,**  
**SPRING BRANCH SCHOOL OF**  
**CHOICE**  
**PARTNERS: JOANNE FRIMEL,**  
**BOB KOUPA**

Disadvantaged students get practical experience with the political process through a political science curriculum focusing on voter registration. They meet candidates, organize and conduct community forums, participate in mock elections, and analyze election data. Students create voter registration materials, then launch registration campaigns and examine data to assess the campaigns' effectiveness.

## LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

**CHERYL CRAIG, HOUSTON**  
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF**  
**EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF**  
**HOUSTON**

Dr. Craig travels to two conferences in England to present her research on the obstacles encountered in school-based reform, including reflections on how standardized testing has evoked contradictory reform methods for principals and teachers. At the conferences, she engages in discussions with other participants on how administrators can help teachers overcome obstacles and enhance student achievement.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Maryanna Rudecki, TSTA-Katy member and art teacher at Cimarron Elementary in Katy ISD, has been awarded the Barbie Arts Teacher of the Year award from the Entertainment Industry Foundation. This award carries with it \$5,000 for her arts program at Cimarron.

Rudecki graduated from Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, with a Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, and double major in Elementary Education and Fine Arts. She received her Master of Education degree, Summa Cum Laude, from National Louis University in Evanston, Illinois, in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis on Gifted Education and Visual Arts. This is her sixteenth year of teaching.

In addition to her creative teaching and her outstanding work with the children in her school, Rudecki serves as her campus TSTA Association Representative. You can see her web site at <http://teacherweb.com/TX/CimarronElementary-katy/Art/>.

- For her "love of children and dedication to instructional technology," Kelly Grigg has been named Texas Computer Education Association's Technology Teacher of the Year.

"The focus of her attention is to support the classroom teacher in any way possible. On the campus web page, she has created a system even a novice could easily navigate," TCEA says. "She provides staff development training, not only to Deepwater staff, but to others across the district."

Grigg is the Technology Support Leader at Deepwater Elementary in Deer Park ISD; her web site is [www.dpsid.org/~dwe](http://www.dpsid.org/~dwe).

# tsta.org:

Now it's easier to find what you're looking for!

Please come visit us at [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org)! We're excited about our new look. Our guiding principle was to make it as easy as possible for you to find the information you're looking for!

In the middle column of the home page, you'll find something we're spotlighting at the top; in the screen shot here, it's our October Texas Educational Issues Conference (go to [www.tsta.org/classroom](http://www.tsta.org/classroom) for details).

Below that is the daily briefing of education and association news and information you've come to expect from us. Skim a couple of lines; if you're interested, click to read more.

You'll find links to each day's state and national newspapers in the right column of the home page. The left column will stay the same throughout

the site; the right column changes with each section (e.g. legislative, classroom).

There's a weekly poll—unscientific but the results are sure to be interesting. Do you have a question you'd like to see us pose? Send an email to



[debbiem@tsta.org](mailto:debbiem@tsta.org).

Click on the apple basket to join, click on the banners to go to the area highlighted. Click on the top menu (Home, Inside TSTA, Newsroom...) and a drop-down menu will appear for most sections to help with navigation.

Did you notice that each time you refresh or return to a page, the photo in the top right has changed?

One really exciting new feature of our web site is Educator Access (read more about it on the next page)

and the members only pages they are providing, which means we'll have more flexibility in what we can post. One immediate benefit is we can post our federal candidates. We are prohibited by law from posting our candidates in the presidential and congressional races on pages that anyone can view.

Come visit us at [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org)—and then send us an email at [debbiem@tsta.org](mailto:debbiem@tsta.org) with your comments and suggestions! We'd love to hear from you.

## Win a vacation!

Some lucky TSTA member and his or her guest will be going on vacation soon, courtesy of Educator Access. There will be a drawing January 1 for a 4-day/3-night vacation for two adults at one of Breeze's (SuperClubs) resorts. To enter, you just have to log into the Access area of our website and activate your membership card by the day the winner is chosen. The more you log in, the better your chances of winning!

# One new web feature: Educator Access!

Our fantastic new group discount program—Educator Access—is online and ready for you to use. It's free to our members! Just show your 2004-05 membership card, which is in this *Advocate*, at over 80,000 locations and you will be entitled to savings of up to 50%.

## IT'S EASY TO USE:

Find your personal member ID number on your membership card; that's the number you use to log into Access' new site at [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org).

Enter a city or zip code to browse through the discounts and special offers in your home area — or the area in which you will be traveling.

Click on a merchant from the list and follow redemption instructions. Some merchants may ask for a coupon when redeeming your discount. These merchants are clearly identified on the list with "coupon required." To get your coupon, click on the merchant's name, then click "print coupon."

With your membership card, you can save up to 50% on everyday purchases—such as fast food and casual dining, dry cleaning, auto service and repair, health and beauty products, movie tickets, video rentals, and family entertainment—as well as golf, ski passes, hotel rooms, vacation packages, luxury cruises, outdoor recreation, and much more.

You still have all the great savings and benefits you enjoyed from TSTA Member

Benefits and NEA Member Benefits. This is in addition to those programs!

## WHO ARE THE ACCESS MERCHANTS?

There are more than 80,000+ name-brand retailers and we're adding more all the time. Here are just a few names we think you'll recognize:

- Sharper Image
- Apple Computers
- Bose Audio Products
- Breezes Resorts
- Pearle Vision
- TruGreen ChemLawn
- Foot Locker
- Brink's Security
- JC Penney Portraits
- ChemDry Carpet Cleaning
- Office Max
- Omaha Steaks
- Tony Roma's
- AAMCO Transmissions
- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Mrs. Fields Cookies
- Meineke
- FTD.com

There is also an area where you can "Refer a Merchant": you recommend your favorite merchant and Access will do their best to add them to the program.

And don't overlook the area

where you can "win free stuff"!

Questions? Contact Educator Access at [customerservice@memberweb.com](mailto:customerservice@memberweb.com) or 866-681-2420.







## Texans take national awards

**TSTA-Student Program makes top three:** The TSTA-Student Program received a Gold Level Membership Growth Award at this summer's NEA-Student Program Summer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Pictured from left to right are Dawn Shephard, former NEA-Student Program Chairperson; Cher Nickerson, TSTA-SP District 2 President; Renay Jones, TSTA-SP President; and Malcolm Staples, NEA Manager of Membership

and Organizing.

TSTA was one of three states to receive the Gold award. By 2007, nearly two million teachers across the country will retire. TSTA is taking aggressive steps to replace these educators and ensure a quality teacher in every classroom.

**First state to take triple PAC gold:** At the Political Action Committee meeting prior to the NEA Representative Assembly, TSTA took home five plaques for outstanding

efforts on fundraising for the NEA Fund. We finished in tenth place for overall contributions and in fifth place for per-member contributions. The most exciting awards came in the area of increased contributions. In this area, NEA recognizes only the top state in each of three categories: most improvement in total contributions, highest percentage increase and most improvement in per-member contributions. For the first time ever, one state affiliate took home the gold in all three categories — TSTA.

**Advocate wins three awards:** Also in the days prior to the RA, TSTA won three awards of merit in the categories of news writing, feature writing, and design for the *Advocate* magazine. The awards competition is among NEA's state affiliates.



### ESP wins state coaching award

Education Austin member Leslie Riggins is the first non-certified coach to win the Coach of the Year Award from the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Riggins has been with Austin ISD for 14 years, coaching football, basketball, track and cross-country at Reagan High School.

Riggins in August received another honor when his summer Amateur Athletic Union track team—all AISD students—won the AAU Track and Field National Championship in Des Moines, Iowa.

# Texans travel to Brazil

Eva Gonzalez, Fran Valenzuela, and Ronnie Rodriguez spent July 22-26 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, representing TSTA and NEA at Education International's Fourth World Congress. The three attended as delegates and observers.

Valenzuela was an official NEA Policy Delegate and also wrote an NEA Board report on the Women's Caucus Pre-Congress Meeting.

More than 1,400 delegates, observers, and guests from more than 150 countries and

territories attended the Congress. Created in 1993, EI is the largest teacher union federation in the world, representing 29 million educators. Delegates identified ways of helping educators and their organizations lobby to defend quality public education, promote the status and training of teachers, and safeguard the right to an education of girls, indigenous peoples and disadvantaged children.

Congress participants also identified strategies to re-



strain the privatization and commercialization of education, and to combat the widespread disregard for the

professional standards necessary to become teachers. <http://www.ei-ie.org/congress2004>



## Notes from the field

Klein Education Association-endorsed school board candidates, Larry Allen and Jerry Courtney, soundly defeated two sitting Klein ISD school board candidates. Mr. Allen was running against the president of the Klein ISD Board of Trustees. This was Mr. Allen's first time to run for this position and Mr. Courtney's second time.

KEA took a big chance endorsing in both positions because the sitting president had previously been endorsed by KEA. During the year leading up to this election, KEA leaders decided it was time to pay closer attention to how the board voted on employees' benefits, salaries, and working conditions. These votes had not been favorable. Therefore, leadership knew a change was needed. We looked for issues that impacted the entire community, especially the students. Along with community leaders and other teachers, a campaign was launched. We studied the voter turnout in each precinct. We made many, many phone calls and sent out many emails. The candidates developed an informative web page which publicized their platform. By Election Day, we knew where we had the votes and where we would lose. At the end of the day, the candidates won all but the one precinct we had determined we would lose.

Working together with community leaders, teachers, family members, and those students who could vote, we were all successful in getting the job completed. Mr. Allen and Mr. Courtney have not forgotten the efforts made on their behalf. As a matter of fact, at the swearing-in ceremony, when asked to introduce their friends and guests, KEA leadership was introduced by name to the public as their friends. This was a first!

We now have a much more employee-friendly KISD Board of Trustees. When the local association teams up with local community leaders, we can get a lot accomplished.

—**Kaye Overand, President-elect, Klein Education Association**

The teachers from Laredo ISD received a \$2,000 pay raise and the teachers from United ISD received a \$2,500 pay raise. Our education support professionals from both school districts received a 6% pay raise, and our administrators got a 3% pay raise at both school districts. We got approved House Bill 1440 (which allows willing teachers to be appraised less than once a year) at both school districts. We have two very strong TSTA locals in Laredo (in the Laredo and United school districts). We are very proud!

—**Rene De La Vina, Field Consultant for Laredo ISD and United ISD (Laredo)**

**DO YOU HAVE A SUCCESS STORY? EMAIL US AT [DEBBIEM@TSTA.ORG](mailto:DEBBIEM@TSTA.ORG)!**

# All aboard the Polar Express

If you're an elementary teacher, by now you already know about the collaboration between NEA and Tom Hanks' Polar Express movie, which opens November 10.

All NEA elementary members should have received a Polar Express poster in their September *NEA Today* magazine; if you've misplaced your magazine, you can download a poster and more at [www.polarexpress.com](http://www.polarexpress.com).

Many NEA members are using the Polar Express Reading Challenge in their class-

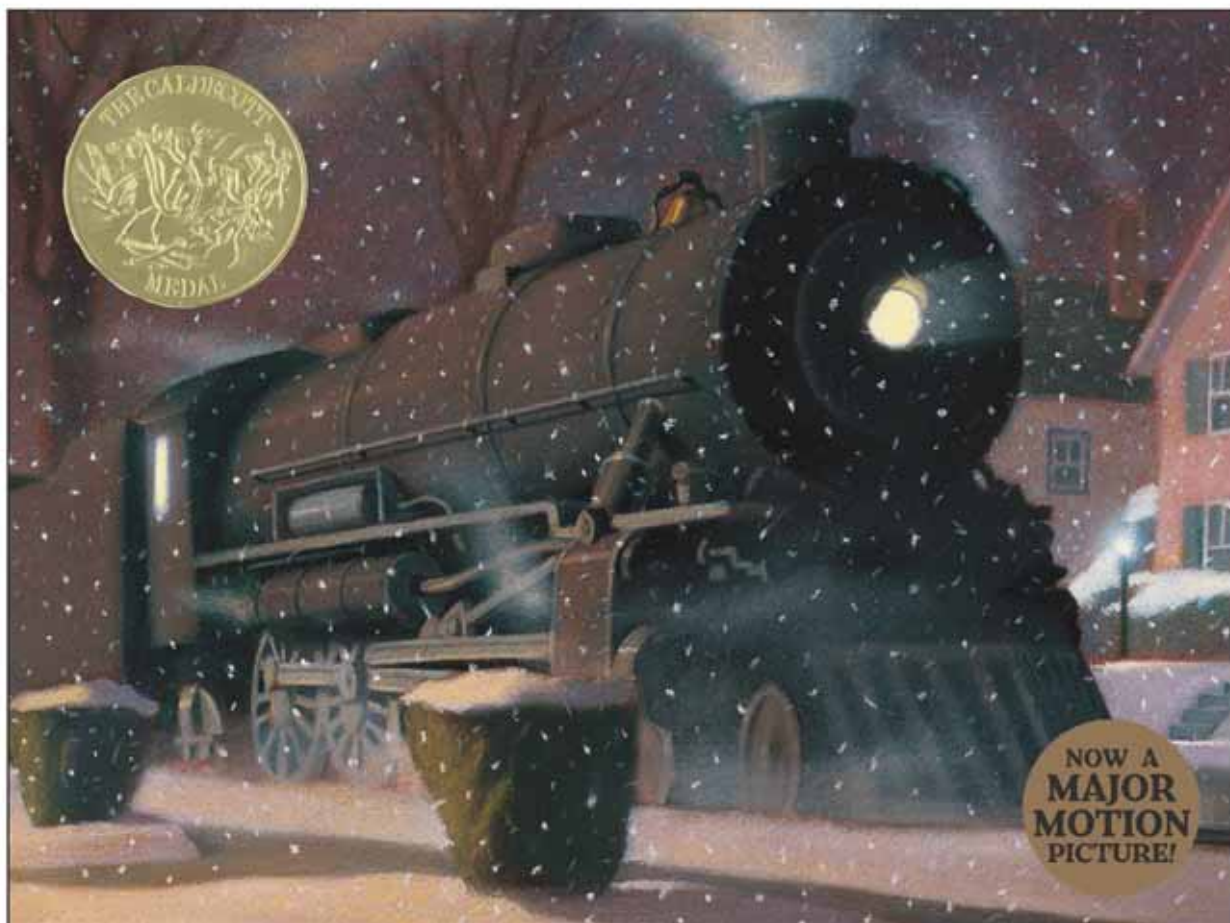
rooms; in a unique partnership, NEA's Read Across America, Warner Bros. Pictures, and the Houghton Mifflin Company collaborated on the Challenge October 1-22 to help kids in struggling schools receive much-needed books and resources. For each book read by October 22, \$1 went to support school libraries.

►But here's something you may not know: Chris Van Allsburg, author of *The Polar Express*, has agreed

to do a live virtual classroom November 9 in 100 movie theaters across the country, including some in Texas! Go to our web site, [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org), for an update.

►Even though the Reading Challenge is over, the movie hasn't opened yet and there are plenty of materials at the web site that you may want to use in your classroom, including games, links, writing exercises and an idea for a pajama party.

## THE POLAR EXPRESS





# Get a Kick Out of Reading: it's bilingual!

¿Además de un juego del fútbol, qué más es 90 minutos de diversión? (Besides a soccer game, what else is 90 minutes of fun?)

The “Get a Kick Out of Reading/¡Lee y Marca un Golazo!” bilingual reading challenge! NEA and Major League Soccer (MLS) know that shared activities are good for the entire family—whether it involves a soccer ball or a good book. So they created a bilingual, multicultural literacy campaign that educates not only children but families on the importance of reading.

To play, kids have to read for fun for 90 minutes a week for six weeks; for every minute they read, they must spend the same amount of time doing some kind of physical activity.

Kids can read on their own or be read to, but it has to be for fun—not for homework or other reading programs. They can play, walk and exercise on their own or with friends or track time on a school or community sports team. When they've completed six weeks of reading and exercise, they redeem their completed chart for a Readers' Shield Certificate of Accomplishment, which you have downloaded from the website for them.

If you live in a Major League Soccer community, have a look at your local team's web site for special reading events with players and more opportunities to get a kick out of reading. Talk to

local bookstores, sporting goods stores or local professional sports teams about providing prizes. Here are some resources:

- Get a Kick out of Reading Challenge Certificates of Accomplishment: [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)
- Fun Soccer Games to get kids moving: [www.America-SCORES.org/](http://www.America-SCORES.org/)
- Free mini posters of celebrity athletes “caught reading”: [www.getcaught-reading.org](http://www.getcaught-reading.org)
- A soccer-themed book list:



list: [www.getakickoutof-reading.org](http://www.getakickoutof-reading.org)

- Inspiration from other ball handlers: view or download the NFL Players Association public service announcement for promoting reading at [www.nea.org/read-across/pressroom.html#psas](http://www.nea.org/read-across/pressroom.html#psas)

## Your Challenge for 2005: Return to the Moon



One of the most creative learning tools is the annual Space Day Design Challenges. It's a year long effort that requires students to use creative problem solving, critical thinking skills and teamwork to find solutions to real challenges encountered by people living and working in space. This year the Challenges are:

**Inventors Wanted:** The first human mission to the Moon is almost ready. The challenge is to research how humans will live on and explore the Moon, then invent, design and build a working model of an item that could make life or work on the Moon easier or more enjoyable.

**Mission Explore:** Students must develop a mission to send a rover to one of the planets or moons to learn more about it. They must decide which planet or moon to explore and what to learn about it. Then they must invent, design and build a 3-D rover model that collects data about three aspects of the planet or moon.

**Space Day Star:** Students are astronauts living on the Moon who need to let everyone on Earth know what they're doing. The challenge is to create an electronic newspaper that vividly describes what it's like to live and work on the Moon.

Each Challenge is available for two levels of students—grades 4-5 and 6-8. Submissions are due by February 15. The winning teams and their teacher will be invited to the Space Day national celebration on May 5 in Washington, D.C. Full details and registration forms are available at [www.spaceday.org](http://www.spaceday.org).

# Know someone who's outstanding?

Many of our outstanding TSTA/NEA members, regional and local associations, communities, businesses, organizations, and individuals who are friends of education deserve honors and awards. TSTA is accepting nominations for awards contained in this article.

For details and/or a nomination form for an award, contact the Center for Executive and Governance (877-ASK-TSTA, ext. 1510). Nominations are to be submitted to the Center for Executive and Governance,

has made an outstanding contribution in the field of education. Any TSTA member, local association, region, or other recognized group (e.g., statewide or special committee or caucus) may make nominations. A letter or memorandum of nomination should be submitted, accompanied by a biographical statement providing details about the major single accomplishment or career effort supporting the worthiness of the individual or organization/company to receive this award. Nominations must be received no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2004.

► **Frank J. Tejeda Award for Public Service:** recognizes an individual for service at the state or national political/legislative level on behalf of public school children or educational employ-

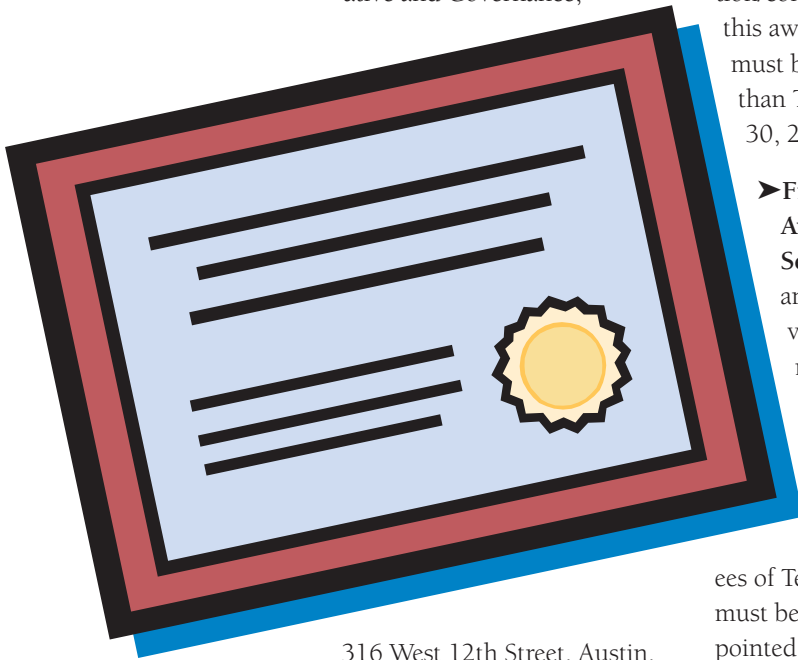
ees of Texas. Nominees must be elected or appointed officials who are not currently employed full-time by a school district. Nominations must be received no later than Tuesday, November 30, 2004.

► **Professional, Human, and Civil Rights Awards:** recognize Texas educators, local associations, regional associations and individuals who are friends of education for distinguished service and contributions

in promoting and/or encouraging professional and human rights activities. Categories of awards are: Individual, Special, Mickey Leland Memorial, and the Willie Velasquez Memorial. Nominations must be received no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2005.

► **NEA Human and Civil Rights Award:** 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 further information on the individual award categories and forms, you may view NEA's website at [www.nea.org/annualmeeting/hcraawards](http://www.nea.org/annualmeeting/hcraawards) or write NEA Human and Civil Rights, 1201 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-3290 (202-822-7705). Nominations must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2004.

► **Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy Award:** recognizes, rewards and promotes teaching excellence. Through this award, teaching excellence, public education, and the NEA's dedicated members are honored. A nomination packet must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2005. The recipient of this award will be submitted as TSTA's nominee for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.



316 West 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

► **Friend of Education Award:** recognizes either (1) an individual or a major single accomplishment or career effort which has greatly impacted Texas education and which achieves some aspect of educational progress with which TSTA agrees; or (2) an organization/company outside the field of education which

# Upcoming TSTA/NEA Events

## NOVEMBER

- 2 ..... Election Day
- 13 ..... Constitution, Bylaws and Elections Committee Meeting, TSTA Headquarters
- 14-20 ..... American Education Week
- 17 ..... National ESP Day
- 30 ..... Deadline for Friend of Education and Tejeda Awards

## DECEMBER

- 3-5 ..... TSTA Board of Directors Meeting, TSTA Headquarters
- 10-11 ..... NEA Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC
- 15 ..... Deadline for NEA Human and Civil Rights Award

## JANUARY

- 13-14 ..... NEA Western Region Minority Leadership Training Seminar
- 14-16 ..... NEA Western Regional Leadership Conference
- 28-30 ..... TSTA Board of Directors Meeting, TSTA Headquarters

## FEBRUARY

- 1 ..... Deadline for Professional, Human and Civil Rights Awards
- 1 ..... Deadline for Ermalee Boice Instructional Advocacy/NEA Teaching Excellence Award
- 11-12 ..... NEA Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC

## MARCH

- 2 ..... NEA's Read Across America
- 11-13 ..... NEA ESP Conference, San Diego, CA

## APRIL

- 14 ..... TSTA Board of Directors Meeting, Renaissance Hotel, Austin
- 15-16 ..... TSTA State House of Delegates, Renaissance Hotel, Austin

## MAY

- 6-7 ..... NEA Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, DC

# Denver to host NEA Western Conference

NEA's Western Regional Leadership Conference is January 14-16, 2005, in Denver, Colorado, at the Denver Marriott City Center. NEA funds selected state affiliate participants based on membership. Last year, NEA funded 19 participants from Texas, including the President, Vice President, one Board of Directors member and Texas' NEA

Directors. TSTA's President selects the remaining funded participants. The conference theme is "Closing the Gaps: A Profession United." The conference registration fees are: \$110 if postmarked by December 3; \$125 if postmarked by December 17; and \$150 if postmarked after December 17. The hotel reservation deadline is December 17.

The Western Region Minority Leadership Training Seminar will be held prior to the conference on January 13-14, 2005, at the Denver Marriott City Center. The theme for the Minority Leadership Training is "Energizing Leaders for an Inclusive Association." The training will begin on the evening of January 13 with dinner and conclude mid-

afternoon on January 14. As in the past, the conference and training provide personal leadership skills as well as background knowledge of NEA, its programs and activities. Leaders/members wishing to attend either the conference and/or training as non-funded participants must submit their request in writing to TSTA President Haschke.



# National delegate elections

Let's go to Los Angeles, for the 2005 NEA Representative Assembly (RA) July 3-6. Pre-RA meetings and workshops begin on June 26. The first Texas caucus will be on July 1 with the Texas event being held that evening.

The exact number of delegates from Texas will be determined by our TSTA/NEA membership as of January 15,

2005. TSTA will be allocated one state delegate for every 1,000 active (teacher or ESP) and 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 percent 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.

Funding for NEA State delegates comes from the region or local. There is no funding from the state for delegates.

Below you will find some of the specific requirements and timelines for election of state and local association delegates. Anybody 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](mailto:sandras@tsta.org).

**Please note that the timeline and process for the election of state delegates to the NEA RA is substantially different from previous years.**

## STATE DELEGATES

The *Advocate* containing ballots for the election of State Delegates should be received by members by March 31, 2005. Deadline for receipt of ballots will be established after the Constitution, Bylaws and Elections Committee meeting on November 6. The deadline date for receipt of ballots will be published along with the balloting process in the Spring *Advocate*.

NEA requires that all elections for state and local delegates must be conducted with 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 2005 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 14, 2005,** in order for your name to appear on the printed ballot.

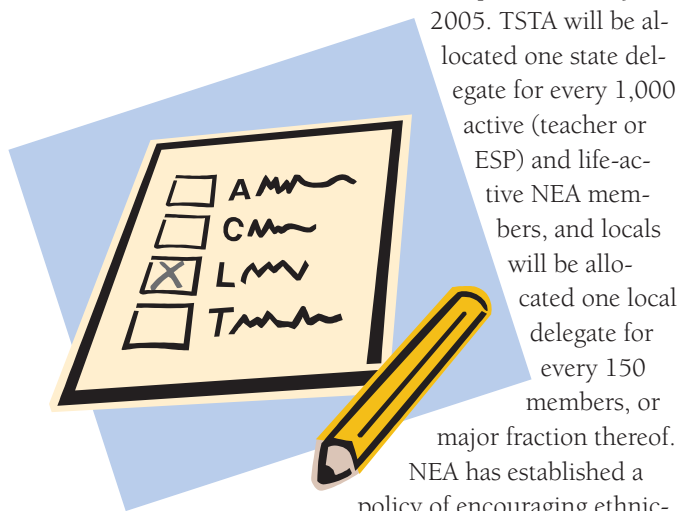
Each candidate for State Delegate is entitled to have his or her name published in the *Advocate*, along with a statement of 25 words or less detailing his/her professional

association involvement.

NEA also requires proportional representation for supervisory and non-supervisory members. In order to insure this is not violated, supervisory members are not eligible to run for state delegate as outlined above. Instead, they are eligible to run in a separate election for Category 2 State At-Large Delegate (which also includes NEA Life Retired members) and/or in the Statewide Supervisory Cluster election. Supervisory members desiring to seek election as a delegate should complete and return the Nomination Form (marking the appropriate box) along with the 25-word statement. Only those Supervisory members who are also local members may run in the Supervisory Cluster election, though the local association has the option not to participate in the Cluster. Those Supervisory members who do not belong to a local, or who belong to a local that opts out of the cluster may still run in the Category 2 election. Again, if you have questions please call Sandra Solimine at 877-ASK-TSTA, ext. 1514 or email [sandras@tsta.org](mailto: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 (teacher, ESP and life) to qualify for a delegate. Locals with fewer than 76 members may cluster together for the purpose of electing local delegates.



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, 2005, in order to insure 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 insuring 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.

Locals that include both supervisory and non-supervisory members must elect delegates in proportion to the appropriate number of such members. Instructions on how to calculate the proper allocation will be provided with information about the number of delegates to be elected.

## RETIRED DELEGATES

TSTA-R/NEA-R delegates are elected in two elections with different eligibility requirements. Members may run in only one of these elections. Someone who was an NEA life member while teaching and is currently retired may seek election as a Category 2 State At-Large delegate by completing and returning the Nomination Form and marking the appropriate box.

A separate Nomination Form is provided for TSTA-R/NEA-R members to seek election as a TSTA-R/NEA-R delegate. **The deadline for**

**submitting this form (and election statement of 25 words or less) is January 14, 2005.** For this election, delegates are allocated one

delegate for the first 50 TSTA-R/NEA-R members and an additional delegate for each additional 1,000 TSTA-R/NEA-R members.

## NOMINATION FORM

### NEA Representative Assembly TSTA/NEA-Retired Delegate Positions July 3-6, 2005

(This form is also available online at [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org))  
(Deadline for receipt at TSTA Headquarters is January 14, 2005)

(Circle One: Mr. Ms.) Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### ETHNIC GROUP: (Check all that apply)

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐ Multiple Races  
☐ Black ☐ Hispanic ☐ Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin)  
☐ Other Racial or Ethnic Minority (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ YES ☐ NO I authorize printing of my ethnicity.  
☐ YES ☐ NO Enclosed is my election statement of 25 words or less which will be sent with the ballot.  
(Note: Statements exceeding 25 words will not be considered.)

Send by U.S. Mail or FAX (512-486-7053) to: Sandra Solimine, TSTA,  
Organizing Center for Executive and Governance, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

## NOMINATION FORM

### 2005 NEA Representative Assembly State Delegates

January 14, 2005, 5:00 p.m.—Deadline for receipt at TSTA Headquarters.  
(This form is also available online at [www.tsta.org](http://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—Administrator or NEA Life Retired\*  
☐ Statewide Supervisory Cluster—Supervisors who are members of a local association\*\*

\*NEA Life Retired—NEA 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security 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 ☐ Multiple Races  
☐ Black ☐ Hispanic ☐ Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin)  
☐ Other Racial or Ethnic Minority (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ YES ☐ NO I authorize printing of my ethnicity.  
☐ YES ☐ NO Enclosed is my election statement of 25 words or less which will be published in the spring *Advocate*.

Send by U.S. Mail or FAX (512-486-7053) to: Sandra Solimine, TSTA,  
Organizing Center for Executive and Governance, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

# TSTA state convention delegate elections

State delegate allocations for local associations (including TFA) to the April 15-16, 2005 TSTA House of Delegates will be mailed to local presidents on January 3.

Delegates are allocated to locals in a ratio of one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction based on the local's Active, Life and ESP membership on May 31, 2004. The policy

regarding election of delegates, forms, and timelines will accompany the allocation. Retired and student members are not eligible to be nominated or elected as local association delegates.

Delegates from retired and student membership categories will be elected at-large by their respective memberships and have different timelines.

Contact Sandra Solimine in the Organizing Center for Executive and Governance at 877-ASK-TSTA, extension 1514, or email [sandras@tsta.org](mailto:sandras@tsta.org) if you have questions regarding the elections.

## ATTENTION, RETIRED MEMBERS:

According to the TSTA By-laws, 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 May 31, 2004. 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 (1) delegate to each seventy-five (75) members or major fraction thereof.

Nomination forms must be received by January 14, 2005.

Ballots for the election will be sent to members the week of February 7, 2005. The deadline for returning ballots to TSTA Headquarters is March 4, 2005.

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, 2005

The deadline for receipt of this nomination form at TSTA's Headquarters is January 14, 2005  
(This form is also available online at [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org))

(Circle One: Mr. Ms.) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### ETHNIC GROUP: (Check all that apply)

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐ Multiple Races

☐ Black ☐ Hispanic ☐ Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin)

☐ Other Racial or Ethnic Minority (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES ☐ NO I authorize printing of my ethnicity.

☐ YES ☐ NO Enclosed is my election statement of 25 words or less which will be sent with the ballot.  
(Note: Statements exceeding 25 words will not be considered.)

Send by U.S. Mail or FAX (512-486-7053) to: Sandra Solimine, TSTA,  
Organizing Center for Executive and Governance, 316 W. 12th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Signature of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_





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**Organization: TSTA**

**Account #: JK-13703-018**



This price includes 3 days/2 nights hotel accommodations for 2 adults and 2 children up to 12 years of age.  
Room tax not included. Add \$25 per person, per night for holidays or less than 30 day notice.

Executive Tour & Travel Services, Inc. is registered in the State of Florida as a seller of travel.  
FL ST #59332 and CA ST # 2065118-40. Travel to Missouri not included.





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Visit the contact person at any one of

the following preferred dealers to enjoy great savings and incredible service. Prefer the phone? Call 800-342-1617 for a personal advisor to assist you in locating a great deal on a new or preowned vehicle. Check the web site daily for dealers being added—[www.tsta.org/benefits](http://www.tsta.org/benefits).

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Corry Peacock  
cpeacock@gulfcoastuatopark.com

**ARLINGTON**

Hiley Mazda VW  
817-575-6000  
Brad Nutt (VW), Hurdie Burk (M)  
bradnutt@hileyvw.com  
hurdieburk@hileymazda.com

**AUSTIN**

Charles Maund Toyota  
512-458-2222  
Bill Kipfer  
billkipfer@hotmail.com  
David McDavid Acura of Austin  
888- 4 My Acura  
Doug Abrams  
dabrams@mc david.com

**BRYAN – COLLEGE STATION**

Tom Light Chevrolet  
979-776-7000  
Bubba Dickson  
bdickson@tomlight.com

**CORPUS CHRISTI**

EH Green Motors: Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep  
361-368-3511  
Ed Green

**DALLAS**

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Rob Laughon  
rlaughon@vtaig.com  
Friendly Chevrolet  
214-920-1900  
Ken See  
cusales@friendlychevy.com

Park Place: Mercedes, Porsche  
888-837-6089  
Debbie Wright  
ppfleet@parkplacetexas.com

Toyota of Irving  
972-258-1200  
Bill Vaughn, Mike Barnhart  
fleet@toyota-irving.com

Volvo of Dallas  
972-428-1200  
Ned Fardecey  
ned.fardecey@volvoofdallas.com

**DAYTON**

Liberty Dayton-Chrysler  
936-336-8841, 800-833-8841  
David Leonard  
david@libertydaytonchrysler.com

**DECATUR**

James Wood: Buick, Chevrolet, GMC,  
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888-494-7942  
Audra Rhine  
audra@jameswood.com

**DENTON**

James Wood: Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet,  
GMC, Oldsmobile, Pontiac  
888-616-9003  
Robbie Pearson  
rpearson@jameswood.com

**EL PASO**

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915-595-1777  
Randy Smith  
rsmith@crawfordimportcenter.com  
Crawford Auto Plaza: Buick, GMC, Pontiac  
915-778-7781  
Agustin Vasquez  
avasquez@crawfordautoplaza.com

**FORT WORTH**

Five Star Ford  
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David Deger, Reid Harmon  
david@5starford.com  
reid@5starford.com  
Frank Kent: Cadillac, GMC, Honda,  
Hummer, Oldsmobile, Pontiac  
817-696-4000  
Bill Barnes, Joe Snelus, Roger Doyle  
fleetsales@frankkentcars.com

Park Place: Lexus - Grapevine  
817-416-3100  
Dorian Jimenez, Tripp Steele  
dorian\_jimenez@parkplacetexas.com  
tripp\_steele@parkplacetexas.com

Thornhill Nissan  
817-560-9000  
Gary Harrell  
gary@thornhillnissan.com  
Vandergriff Honda  
817-275-3371  
John Shumaker, Mike Allen  
sales@vandergriff.dealerspace.com

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Frank Arra  
farra@sanddollarauto.com  
Sand Dollar Autoplex: Honda  
877-396-2200  
Ever Pereira  
epereira@sanddollarhonda.com

Bob Pagen Ford  
409-744-0481  
Brad Bellard (Ford)  
bbellard@bpfordtoyota.com  
Willis Nixon (Toyota)  
willisn@bpfordtoyota.com

**HARLINGEN**

Bert Ogden Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth  
956-423-5555  
Ray Crum  
rayc@bertogdenonline.com

**HILLSBORO**

Hillsboro Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler,  
Dodge, Jeep

254-582-2525  
Bruce Glascock  
bruceg@hillsboroautomall.com

**HOUSTON**

Courtesy Chevrolet  
713-686-7777  
Kerry Marsh  
kmarsh@courtesychevy.com

Davis Chevrolet  
713-291-3678  
Larry Davis, Al Flores  
ldavis@davischevrolet.com  
alflores@davischevrolet.com

Goodson Chrysler, Dodge,  
Honda, Jeep  
832-601-4000  
David Froeschl  
dfroeschl@unitedauto.com  
Chastang's Bayou City Ford  
713-678-5045  
Patrick Chastang  
pchastang@bayoucityford.com

**JASPER**

Allison Chevrolet  
409-384-4693  
Russell Duplantis  
russell@allisonchevrolet.net  
Jasper Ford Lincoln Mercury  
409-384-3411  
Joe Griggs  
joe@jasperford.net

**KILLEEN**

Patriot: Pontiac, Buick, GMC  
254-690-7000  
Rodney Truett, Andrea Womack  
rtruett@patriotcars.com  
andreaw@patriotcars.com

**LEWISVILLE**

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972-221-2900  
Bill Letts  
billetts@fordcountry.net  
Lewisville VW  
972-538-0700  
Kevin Bedford  
sales@vwautoteam.com

**LUBBOCK**

Gene Messer Toyota  
806-748-4800  
Charlie Hopkins  
internet@genemessertoyota.com

**MCALLEN**

Bert Ogden: BMW, Nissan  
956-631-6666  
David Flores  
teetered@hotmail.com

**PLANO**

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Troy Tucker, Tim Tolson  
ttucker@parkplacetexas.com  
ttolson@parkplacetexas.com

**SAN ANTONIO**

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mhulek@erac.com  
jaime.mccord@erac.com

The Dodge Superstore  
210-253-3030  
Scot Carl, Alan Gwin  
scarl@saaauto.com

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512-392-4300  
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kevinsmc03@yahoo.com

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gobermerrell@hotmail.com

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Faron Young  
money@nuwavenet.com

Wylie Musser: Buick, Pontiac, GMC Trucks  
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Perry Stovall  
wyliemusser@aol.com

**VICTORIA**

Atzenhoffer: Cadillac, Chevrolet, Mazda,  
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361-578-0181  
Leesa Brown  
newcar@atzenhoffer.com

**WICHITA FALLS**

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817-430-0600  
Audra Rhine  
audra@jameswood.com  
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# TSTA/NEA

Texas State Teachers Association/National Education Association

877-ASK-TSTA • [www.tsta.org](http://www.tsta.org)

## 2004-05 ENROLLMENT FORM

Please return this completed form to your Association Representative or mail to TSTA Membership Department, 316 West 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-9516. If you have questions, call **877-ASK-TSTA** or email **asktsta.org**.

<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>																																							
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AREA CODE	HOME PHONE	AREA CODE	WORK PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native				<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic																																					
				<input type="checkbox"/> Asian				<input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian (not of Spanish Origin)																																					
				<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander				<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown																																					
				<input type="checkbox"/> Black																																									
<small>Ethnicity 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.</small>																																													
<b>METHOD OF PAYMENT</b>																																													
_____ 1 Cash/Check                      _____ 2 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 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 <i>TSTA Briefing</i> , which is distributed by email at least once a week.																																													
Send to: <input type="checkbox"/> home email address <input type="checkbox"/> work email address																																													
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**DISCLAIMER:** The TSTA Political Action Committee (TSTA-PAC) and 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. Contributions to TSTA-PAC and The NEA Fund for Children and Public Education 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

Annual membership dues to NEA include \$4.55 for NEA Today, \$2.50 for NEA-Retired and/or \$17.00 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.

**Former student member?**  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

MEMBER SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE \_\_\_\_\_



PHOTOS COURTESY OF INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL GROUP

# Texas Educational Issues Conference

## Last minute sign-up is still available!

You don't want to miss our second TSTA/TFT Texas Educational Issues Conference! If you haven't signed up yet, it's not too late; just go to [tsta.org/classroom](http://tsta.org/classroom) for all the details, reserve a room at the Crowne Plaza, and come join us. You can register on-site.

The conference, which is October 29-31 on the San Antonio Riverwalk, will feature informative speakers and a huge selection of workshops on educational issues for Texas educators. Many of the sessions will include hands-on activities that you can use in your classroom the next day!

Dr. Phillip C. Schlechty, one of the most respected teaching and learning experts in the nation, will headline the conference. Hope to see you there!

Please share this copy of the *Advocate* with others

**Texas State Teachers Association**

316 West 12th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

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