



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

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TAEA members, later this month we'll have links for hotel & REO class reservations for next January's conference. As for the agenda of topics, talks & presentations, what do you want YOUR [2019 Mid-Winter Conference](#) to focus on? Please [send us](#) suggestions. Here are some general starters:

- [Upcoming legislation](#) (always a seat-filler... ;-0).
- [Best Practices](#) (if you've got processes that you want to share or are interested in how other counties are doing it, let's make a round-table for it (think breakout session for 40-50 people).
- [Election 101 topics](#) for new officers & staff or for brushing-up. If there's something that the Texas SoS covered too quickly, tell us. We've got them over the course of these days to help us with our questions at OUR pace & schedule.
- [What else? Tell us.](#)

We want it to be worth you & your county's time, money & effort.

-Chris Davis

Vice President

When I was Treasurer, I was often asked if TAEA annual membership dues could be prorated. The answer is “no”. The annual membership term starts on January 1st of each year and ends on December 31st of that same year. The amount does not change in accordance to the month in which the dues are paid. Annual membership fees are due every January 1st and are considered late if paid thereafter. I know that there are those counties, like mine, whose auditors do not allow you to pay the dues for the following year in December, so I’m late. But don’t worry, we understand, but the quicker you can get your dues paid, the better for the association since we are preparing for the January conference by that time and deposits and such need to be paid.

Although we only have two scheduled, formal meetings each year, your board works continuously, working on legislative topics, or receiving and/or paying monies associated with the organization. The board consistently meets and discusses via email and conference calls or conference texts. Don’t ever hesitate to ask any of your board members any questions you may have.

This year, Michele Bennett is your Treasurer. Please email her or contact her when sending membership dues or conference payments. Her address is 602 E. Concho, Rockport, TX 78382. Should you send your payment to me, don’t worry, as I will forward to Michele.

How many of us visit our TAEA website? How many of us don’t even know we have a TAEA website? The link is <http://www.taesa-elections.org/> and I just visited the site, and yes, it is somewhat neglected. Something to discuss..... Don’t hesitate to visit our TAEA facebook page! Chris Davis does a great job keeping up with that site. Have a great August everyone! I know that Williamson County is working hard to get ready for our 2019 Mid-Winter Conference for this coming January, so make plans to attend!

–Yvonne Ramon



SOS 2018 Election Law Seminar Cities, Schools & other Political Subdivisions:

November 28 – November 30, 2018

Continuing Education

Out of town....

- John Oldham



It sure was good to see everyone in Austin. This year was so different to me. There were a lot of new people and I really missed seeing those who have since moved on and/or retired. On another note, I would like to thank those who attended our Social. We had 130 in attendance! Cold drinks and delicious food were had followed by great conversation with our colleagues. We have received a lot positive feedback. The Board's always looking for new things to do as an association and your opinion matters. So please feel free to contact any one of us with your ideas and input.

Planning is underway for the Midwinter Conference in Georgetown. REO classes will be offered as well as continuing education classes. Mark your calendars for the week of January 7th and stay tuned for more info to come!

Over the last few years we've combined the TAEA Membership Application with the Midwinter Conference Registration Form. This year we have decided to offer the REO classes to non-members. For an additional \$150, non-members can attend REO classes, too. Additional information is available on the application which should be available on [the TAEA website](#) soon.

We do this to simplify the membership renewal/conference registration process on your end, as well as streamline the record-keeping process on the TAEA's end.

- If you're going to renew your membership and register for the conference, use this form.
- If you're only renewing your membership, use this form.
- If you're registering for the conference after your county has renewed their memberships, use this form.
- Please don't forget to indicate if you are using Chapter 19 funds
- If a non-member wants to attend REO classes, they will need to use this form.

If you have any questions, give me a call at (361)729-7431 or email me at mbennett@aransascounty.org

- Michele Bennett

Legislative Chair



Working on

- Mina Cook

Secretary

I want to thank everyone for the vote of confidence and tell you how much I am looking forward to the coming year. I have already started a draft of the minutes from our meeting and surprisingly have already used my notes to refresh the memory of the executive committee. If you have any items you would like to include in the next meeting, please let the executive committee know so that we don't leave it off the next agenda. The same goes for any minutes or prepared reports of any committee meetings. I know the membership would get a better appreciation of the work you are putting into your charge.

Like everyone else, finishing up summer projects and entering into phase two of the planning for November. Looks like nine local entities are going to come along for the ride with either special or general elections up before the voters this year. Some mornings I don't know where to start when I sit down at my desk. Then throw budget hearings on top of the pile and its surprising I can tie my shoes by the end of the day. I am developing a strong preference for loafers.

- Remi Garza

Job Postings

Brown County EA – job posting attached to newsletter email or [click here](#).



Melissa Alcazar named EA for DeWitt County June 9, 2018

Stacey Mika retiring from Karnes County and being replaced by Sarah Garza August 1, 2018

New Election Administrators



[Texas Counties are Struggling to Find Money to Replace Antiquated Voting Machines](#)

This article was in the Texas Observer after the Secretary of State Conference earlier this month.



Purchasing New Voting Equipment

Travis County voters have been asking for a paper trail voting system for years. On August 7th, 2018, County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir recommended and the Travis County Commissioners unanimously voted to proceed with buying Express Vote from Elections System and Software. The voter verified paper trail component was certified for use in Texas in April 2017. The new voting system will offer the best of both worlds—the speed and accuracy of electronic voting with the auditing capabilities of a voter verified paper trail. The Express Vote voting booth uses a ballot marking device (BMD) for all voters including those with disabilities, and doesn't allow voters to make common mistakes and mismarks on the paper ballot. The BMD also makes available an unlimited inventory of ballot styles which enables Travis County to continue its Vote Centers outreach program without the risk of running out of the appropriate ballot style. The paper trail is inserted into a ballot scanner/ballot box in the polling place and the scanner makes an electronic copy of the ballot from the paper record. Election night tallying is done via the electronic copy. The county plans to conduct county-wide training and demonstrations of the new voting system next summer and use it for the first time in the November 2019 Constitutional Amendment election.

Just a SPECIAL NOTICE for the recipients of the newsletter. The association newsletter is intended for members and associates of Texas Association of Election Administrators. Those individuals who are not members or associates of the association may be removed at any time.