



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

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President

I want to thank everyone who attended the Midwinter Conference. I want to thank Remi Garza, Yvonne Ramon and their staff for all of the hard work that they did to make sure everything ran smooth.

I'm sure most of you heard last week that I will no longer be working for Navarro County. January 26, 2018 will be my last day. With that being said I will be stepping down as the TAEA President. It has been an honor to serve on this amazing board. If you have not served before please do not be afraid to step out there and put your name in the hat. You won't regret it.

Thank you again to everyone for your support and well wishes. I wish each and every one of you a smooth election year and I'll be seeing you around.

– Danda Parker

President
– [Danda Parker](#)

Vice-President
– [Chris Davis](#)

Treasurer
– [Yvonne Ramon](#)

Secretary
– [Michele Bennett](#)

Education Chair
– [John Oldham](#)

Legislative Liaison
– [Mina Cook](#)

Newsletter Editor
– [Jenise Miller](#)



Vice-President



*And we danced like a wave on the ocean, romanced
We were liars in love and we danced
Swept away for a moment by chance
And we danced and danced danced.
- The Hooters*

It was great to see the members that attended last week, and I was sorry I missed those that didn't. Next year at my place, then! Whether you were there or not, if you want to review the presentations that were given you can find them all [online here](#).

I'd like to thank outgoing President Danda Parker for her years (decades, really, but that'd embarrass her) of service both to the TAEA and to administering elections. I'm excited that I'll still be able to pick her brain in the elections field.

[TAEA by-laws](#) handle officer vacancies in this manner:

Section 9. Vacancies. *Vacancy in the Office of President shall be filled by the Vice-President. Vacancy in the Office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Treasurer. Vacancy in the Office of Treasurer shall be filled by the Secretary. Vacancy in the Office of Secretary shall be filled by the appointment of the other three members of the Board.*

As luck would have it, there's past precedent for a vacating President. In early 2013, Cameron Co. EA Roger Ortiz resigned as TAEA President. Then-Vice President Lannie Noble filled the vacancy and by that summer began a full term as President that ended in July of 2014. So Michele, Yvonne and I will "bump-up" a spot a good 6 months earlier than planned and will discuss how to proceed in the short-term for filling the ultimate Secretary vacancy.

Best of luck during primary preparations! - CJD

- Chris Davis



Happy New Year, everyone! I hope that you are all staying warm and are safe. This year's Mid-Winter Conference was a huge success! A special thanks to Remi Garza and his staff in Cameron County as well as Yvonne Ramon and her staff from Hidalgo County. Everything ran so smooth thanks to these two. The conference was filled with great speakers and fun filled entertainment. Danda and Chris did an excellent job working with the hotel to ensure that everyone had a great time.

I'd like to congratulate the 2018 REO Graduates on receiving their certification and welcome the 12 new Texas EA's. If ever you find yourself needing help don't hesitate to reach out to anyone in our association. We are all here to help.

As you all have read, Danda is leaving us and moving on to the corporate world. Good luck as you move onto the next stage in your life. Without a doubt, you will continue to have success. Thanks for all that you have done for TAEA. You will be missed!

What's going on in your neck of the woods? Here in Aransas County we are still in recovery mode. The County was able to secure a temporary courthouse. Our offices have been spread all over the county since Harvey. They will all reunite in their new spot starting next week. Luckily for me, I don't have to move so it's business as usual, except for being short-handed. With that being said, if anyone is interested in relocating to this quaint fishing town give me a shout. I will have a job opening posted sometime next week.

Until next time.....

- Michele Bennett

Treasurer

WELCOME, 2018, AND...

Kudos to our host, Remi Garza, Cameron County EA, and his staff for an exceptional TAEA, South Padre Island Mid-Winter Conference. Our President, Danda Parker, presented us with an outstanding agenda with important speakers speaking on the vital topics affecting elections today. We are working toward uploading the presentations to our TAEA website, so peruse the site and get the copies that the presenters handed out during the conference.

August, 2008 seems so long ago. That's the month and year that I started as Hidalgo County's EA. Our Presidential Election was upon us, but the comment I kept hearing was, "Wait till you hold your first primary! Now that's the difficult one!" I soon learned that this statement is true! A Primary Election is difficult at so many levels, so don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help.

And also, don't forget about the Central Counting Station Plan that is now required as per Section 127.007 of the Texas Election Code. The Secretary of State's Office sent out Election Advisory No. 2017-16 which explains and gives excellent recommendations. Your written plan must be made available to the public not later than 5 p.m. on the fifth day before the date of the election. If you want, you may send your plan to the Secretary of State's Office, and they will review your plan and help you, if necessary.

God bless us all, and may we all have the best Primary Elections to date!

- Yvonne Ramon

Continuing Education



Congratulations to the 2018 REO Graduates!



- John Oldham

Legislative Chair



Nothing to report at this time.

- Mina Cook



Robertson County has a new interim EA, **Rebekah Callaway**. Previous EA, Ray Rodriguez, is stepping down Feb. 1st to pursue career in law enforcement. Welcome Rebekah and good luck Ray.

Job Opportunity: [Medina County Election Administrator position](#)

New Ballot by Mail Applications - [English](#) [Spanish](#) The Secretary of State has updated the ballot by mail applications and they are now on their website.

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.