



TAEA Newsletter

Texas Association of Elections Administrators

MARCH 19, 2018

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Jump-(re)Starting the South Central Regional Elections Group



Hope everyone's primaries went off without a hitch!

I had the pleasure of attending the quarterly meeting of the [San Antonio Region of TAEA](#) last week, graciously hosted by Bexar Co. Elections. As many of you know, their offices & warehouse are exemplary. Lots of useful knowledge & best practices were exchanged, and the group invited a guest speaker to present on the (in)famous Nursing Home Bill.

Along those lines, I'd like to see another regional group re-start that's closer to my home county: the [South Central Elections Group](#). When last it assembled, it's members were from around these parts:



Meeting frequency was in even-numbered months. But I think that can be scaled back to quarterly meetings, if that makes it easier for counties to attend. What say y'all?
-CJD



Vice President

Happy March and Happy Easter to all. I'm sure everyone is in full swing, trying to play "catch-up" with our May elections, as well as finalizing all primary details for possible runoffs. Of course, it doesn't help that some candidates that did not win are upset and filing a never ending amount of Public Information Requests, as well as threatening recounts and contests. Is this just in Hidalgo County? I sometimes wonder...

Just a friendly reminder that annual membership fees for our TAEA Association are now due. The annual membership cycle runs from January 1st through December 31st of the same year, so if you have not yet mailed them in, please do. The fees are as follows:

Regular Membership	\$150.00	Elections Administrators
Associate Membership	\$100.00	County Clerks, Tax Assessors and all staff members
Members -at-Large	\$100.00	Representatives of corporations, institutions, associations, groups, etc.

Mail in your dues to:

Yvonne Ramón, TAEA Treasurer
101 S. 10th Avenue
Edinburg, TX 78539

I know it's early, but it's never too early to plan to attend the 2018 Secretary of State's Law Seminar that is set for July 30 through August 1, 2018. As always, we will hold our Summer Business Meeting at noon on the 2nd day of the conference, which would be on Tuesday, July 31, 2018. AND....Congratulations to Remi Garza, EA from Cameron County, who has so graciously agreed to serve as our TAEA Interim Secretary for the rest of this term. Elections for the position of TAEA Secretary will take place during our Summer Business Meeting, so thank you so much, Remi, for finishing out this term.

- Yvonne Ramon

FAITH

*is taking the first step
even when
you don't see
the whole staircase.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Treasurer

Greetings from Aransas County...

I hope that everyone's Primary Elections went well. Aransas County had a 23% voter turnout. Not bad considering more than half of our residence still have not returned since Harvey hit 6 ½ months ago. On the upside, insurance approved and paid for a brand new voting system, which is the talk of the town! We implemented the new system during the Primary. Our Commissioner's approved it January 22nd and it was delivered the following Friday. The entire process was fast and furious. Implementation and training all happened so fast. It's all a total blur. My advice to anyone looking to buy a new system is to implement it a lot earlier than I did. You will save yourself a lot of unnecessary stress.

I would like to introduce everyone to Julie Gifford. She transferred from the Treasurer's office and has been an employee for Aransas County for 11+ years. She started working with me smack dab in the middle of early voting. She survived her first election day and so far wants to stick around. I am looking forward to introducing her to everyone in July.



In closing, I would like to personally welcome Remi Garza to the board. He will be serving as our Interim Secretary until the summer business meeting in July.

I hope this Easter holiday fills your home with peace, joy, and plenty of colorful Easter eggs.

- Michele Bennett

Legislative Chair



Hey everyone! Hope your Primaries went well, they did for me except I had more trouble with the candidates this time than I ever have during early voting. They kept creeping inside the 100' distance marker. I had one candidate that was doing it right though, and he would make sure I knew what was going on outside so I could handle it quickly. It's so helpful when you have others helping you! 😊

I know some of you don't have May 5th elections but for those of us that do, there's not much time to get it all done! Hang in there though, I know everyone can do it, we always do!

A lot of you have kids and spring break, it was always tough to get off on even numbered years for me with mine, but hope those of you who wanted to got to.

Aside from elections, its springtime & I'm loving this weather! The only thing I'm not looking forward to is all the yardwork...

Until next time, y'all have a good one!

- Mina Cook

Secretary

Remi Garza Appointed as Interim TAEA Secretary



Congratulations to Cameron County EA Remi Garza, who's been appointed to the TAEA Officer position of Secretary on an interim basis, as provided for [in Article V, Section 4 of our TAEA by-laws.](#)

And as directed under [Article IV, Section 2 of those same by-laws](#), we still intend to hold an election for the office of Secretary during our July 31st business meeting at the SOS Seminar.

–CJD

I asked Remi up for a response:

“I am extremely honored by this appointment. I look forward to working with the board and the organization as a whole. I am happy to serve in any capacity, but this is an opportunity I am grateful to accept and will do my best to make a positive difference.”

Continuing Education



Hard at work in Ft. Bend County....

- John Oldham



SOS 2018 Election Law Seminars:

July 30 – August 1, 2018 36th Annual Election Law Seminar for County Election Officials

November 28 – November 30, 2018 30th Annual Election Law Seminar for Cities, Schools, and other Political Subdivisions

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.