

Leadership Team Times

August 2014

The Quiet Evolution of Convention

When Convention rolled out in 1960, it consisted of 11 sessions—a great inaugural effort, both in programming and our partnership with the Texas Association of School Administrators. As the old television commercial used to say, “We’ve come a long way, baby!”

More than 50 years later, the event has evolved to offer a new level of engagement and variety to our members. In addition to almost 200 hot-topic and core-training sessions, and distinguished and general session speakers, this year’s program is bursting at the seams with engagement and innovation, including these new learning experiences.

Ask an Architect

One-on-one conversations with award-winning architectural firm representatives

Four Corners

Different perspectives at each *corner* stopping point throughout this unconventional classroom

Learning Lounge

Bite-sized training in 20 minutes

Meet Up Lounge

Common-issue discussions with peers—some preplanned, some off-the-cuff

Student Collaboration Center

Hands-on demonstrations showcasing visual arts, culinary arts, and the latest in technology

Texas Art Education Association

Hundreds of displays from schoolchildren across the state



Another perk we’re excited about is the Convention Mobile App and CEC (Continuing Education Credit) Mobile. Whether you’re looking for session details, maps, or exhibitor information, the Convention Mobile App will have it all. And if you’re one of the many attendees who are ready to see CEC Scantron forms go by the wayside, you’ll be happy to know CEC Mobile will be available during Convention.

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Training, Events, & Reminders

TASA/TASB Convention:

September 26–28, Dallas. Hotel deposits due August 22 and preregistration ends September 12 at tasa.tasb.org.

TASB Delegate

Assembly: Submit Delegate and Alternate names by September 19 at delegate.tasb.org.

TASB Conference for Administrative Professionals: October 23–24, Austin

Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS): February 26–28, Corpus Christi. Program application deadline November 21 at LTS.tasb.org.

Did You Know?

This year’s Summer Leadership Institute attendees donated a combined total of almost 1,000 pairs of socks for child and family foster services in San Antonio and Fort Worth. Way to go, and thanks for supporting the effort to give back to the communities that host our training events!



As always, the Exhibit Hall will house hundreds of new and veteran commercial vendors, as well as the Exhibit of School Architecture and more.

Access complete Convention details at tasa.tasb.org.

TASB ISD Next Steps

TASB ISD, a series of meat-and-potatoes training sessions designed as a recommended course of study for new board members, provides a broad overview of board member responsibilities. Especially helpful for new trustees, the in-depth sessions explore fundamental subjects for any board member. Experienced trustees tell us the sessions provide a great refresher course in good governance.



But if you've already taken TASB ISD courses earlier this year and want to build on that experience, consider participating in TASB ISD Next Steps. Being offered at Convention for the first time, this interactive session gives newer board members an opportunity to increase their effectiveness regarding vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, and unity. The session uses Texas Academic Performance Reports, case studies, and small group and panel discussions to enhance your understanding of effective board service. Details are available at LTS.tasb.org, or call us at **800.580.8272**, extension 3304.

On the Road Again

by Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant

As we successfully close out another season of Summer Leadership Institutes (SLI), I'm struck by a sense of family at this event. SLI is TASB's version of a family reunion, our opportunity to get together with people we haven't seen since last year.

We get to share food, fun, and fellowship again. We share our trials and triumphs, celebrate and commiserate, and get inspired to continue another year. At our annual team-building event, we share our successes and see how far we've come while recognizing that we still have so far to go. We get to pick each other's brains for solutions while challenging each other to continue evolving to meet the needs of our students. We pat ourselves on the back for our emphasis on high-tech delivery of education while reminding ourselves that we cannot lose that high-touch aspect so necessary to keep us connected to staff, students, parents, and community.

We revisit the fact that no matter how diverse we are as districts, large and small, urban and rural, Chapter 41 and Chapter 42, the things that unite us are greater than those things that separate us. We're united by our common desire to provide the best possible education for all of the students of our state, to be wise stewards of the resources entrusted to us, and to fight the continual assault on public education. We come together to debate the issues that confront us and forge unique solutions. We welcome brand new members of our family and bid farewell to those who've departed, determined to uncover and use all the talents and skills of our new blended family.

Perhaps the most fitting part of this year's reunion was that it took place against the backdrop of the San Antonio Spurs winning their fifth national basketball championship and the US national soccer team valiantly competing in the World Cup in Brazil. These sporting events remind us that our students are constantly competing—whether it's testing, extracurricular activities, scholarships, college admissions, or jobs—and not just within the state, but against the world. More importantly, team success demonstrates the wisdom and beauty of playing as a team despite the odds. What an amazing team family we are!

Timely Resources

- New Board Member "Leadership to Go" Package
- Board Presidents' "Leadership to Go" Package

Get resources for new board members and presidents at store.tasb.org.

The Online Learning Center also has resources available for new board members at onlinelearning.tasb.org.

Contact Us

Leadership Team Times is produced by the TASB Leadership Team Services (LTS) Division. For more information about LTS and its training opportunities and services, go to LTS.tasb.org. Contact Lisa Carothers at lisa.carothers@tasb.org with questions or comments.