

# Leadership Team Times

April 2008

*Nine copies of this publication will be mailed monthly to the superintendent secretary to be included in the board packets.*

## Training & Events

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU

If you have feature ideas or run across information you'd like to share with your peers, contact Lisa Carothers at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org). And don't forget that the current issue of *Leadership Team Times* can be accessed each month at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

### LENDING PUBLIC VS. PRIVATE SUPPORT

With election season upon us, some of your fellow trustees are up for reelection. Although by state law you may only act as a team, each of you must stand alone when it comes to elections. It is tempting to support each other, but doing so could have a negative effect on the team. For example, if you put a sign in your yard and campaign for an incumbent who is later defeated, how will that affect your relationship with the challenger who joins the board after the election? If you have had a rocky relationship with a fellow board member and support his or her opposition, what effect will that have if the incumbent is reelected?

Establish a policy of not publicly supporting anyone running for the board. That means not running on a ticket with other trustees or doing anything that would show the public your preference for one candidate over the others. You simply have to be in a position to work comfortably and effectively with the person who wins the election.

### APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS, OFFICER ELECTIONS

Next month most of you will be reorganizing after local elections, which can be a sensitive issue. How do you let your peers know you'd be willing to serve as an officer? How do you discourage someone who doesn't have the necessary skills or experience from seeking office? And how do you vote against a colleague in public without hurting your working relationship?

Open meetings laws prohibit advance discussion before the reorganization meeting to address these questions. However, you can come prepared to nominate the best-qualified members of your board to serve as officers and to give testimony as to why they have the skills and temperament needed to lead the team.

When it comes to weighing the relative qualifications of two or more people nominated for the same office, consider going into a closed meeting to discuss the duties and qualifications of those individuals. The OMA personnel exception allows discussion about the appointment of a public officer in a closed meeting. Then take your vote in open session. If board members conduct themselves professionally, state their case for a nominee objectively, and focus on what that nominee brings to the table to help the board work together effectively, the discussion need not be uncomfortable, even when held in public. For helpful information and tips about officer elections, visit [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) and select "Post-Election Resources."

### CONVENTION:

Housing and registration open **June 16**. Exhibit of School Architecture projects due **June 30**. Go to [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org) for details.

### WEBINARS:

**April 8**, *Preparing to Select a President and Other Board Officers*  
**May 19**, *Quick Tips for New Board Members*  
**June 3**, *Working Together after the Team Changes*

### SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:

Housing and registration opened **April 1**. Session details available on line.

### TASB SPRING WORKSHOPS:

**April 22**, Lubbock and Wichita Falls  
**April 23**, Houston and Stephenville  
**May 7**, Alpine  
**May 8**, Uvalde  
**May 13**, Commerce  
**May 14**, Canyon and Temple  
**May 15**, Abilene and Nacogdoches  
**May 16–17**, South Padre  
**May 21**, Victoria  
**May 22**, El Paso

*For a complete list of training and events, or to access more details on any of the information referenced, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).*



## COUNTDOWN STARTS SOON FOR LOCAL ORIENTATIONS

Don't forget you have 60 days from the date of a new board member's election or appointment to provide an orientation that covers local district policies, procedures, and goals. Find "Post-Election Resources" on line at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



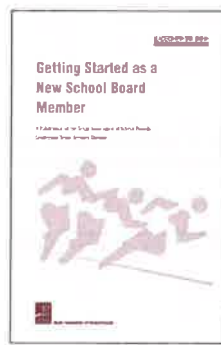
*Making a Difference  
Becomes Limitless*

Become a member of a specialized leadership development program designed by school board members for school board members. Leadership TASB is accepting applications May 1 through July 1 for the 2008–09 class. For details, visit [tasb.org/leadershiptasb](http://tasb.org/leadershiptasb), e-mail [bill.rutherford@tasb.org](mailto:bill.rutherford@tasb.org), or call 800.580.8272, extension 6169.

## TIMELY RESOURCES

These TASB publications might be especially useful this time of year:

- *Getting Started as a New School Board Member*
- *Getting Started as a New School Board President*
- *A New Board Member's Guide to Parliamentary Procedure*
- *A Board President's Guide to Parliamentary Procedure*
- *A Board President's Guide to Meeting Preparation*



## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

by Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant

April is the month we recognize Administrative Professionals Day. As school board members, this is the perfect time to thank your superintendent's secretary for all he or she does for the board. Not only is he or she in charge of preparing board packets and getting that mountain of information out to the board before meetings, but many times he or she takes on a ton of "other duties as assigned." The secretary takes new board members and superintendents by the hand and teaches them the ropes, and takes care of hotel accommodations and conference registrations and reimbursements.

In 2006, TASB launched training conferences for superintendent secretaries. Not only did it give us an opportunity to meet those who serve as the wind beneath your wings, but it also allowed us to learn a great deal from them. I had the pleasure of sharing with them a session called "Take this Job and Love It" where we talk about the factors that lead to burnout and how to stay energized. Seeing their resilience and dedication to their job brought to mind the words of a poem by Edward Everett Hale:

*I am only one, but I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
What I can do, I ought to do.  
What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.  
I will make a difference in someone's life everyday.*

Don't forget to thank your superintendent's secretary for the difference he or she makes in your life.

## Reminders

### ITEMS YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER AS AGENDA CALENDAR ACTIVITIES:

- Elect new board officers.
- Conduct local orientation.
- Submit application to participate in Leadership TASB (available May 1).
- Submit requests for SLI housing and registration (opened April 1).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Celebrating Educational Opportunities for Hispanic Students**, April 25–27, San Jose, California
- **SLI South**, June 12–14, San Antonio
- **SLI North**, June 19–21, Fort Worth
- **TASA/TASB Convention**, September 26–28, Dallas

## 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](http://LTS.tasb.org), or contact Lisa Carothers at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org) with questions or comments.