

2007-2008 TJCSGA
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TJCSGA: Texas H.E.R.O.E.S

Honor, Education, Respect, Organization for Every Student

NOVEMBER 16TH, 2007

TJCSGA E-Board to propose new Bylaw Amendment

By Heather Atchley
State Advisor Elect

Now that plans for the 2008 convention are in full swing, the Executive Board definitely wants to keep all TJCSGA schools informed about important issues we’ll discuss in Houston this April. One thing to be aware of is a proposal to amend the Bylaws regarding convention locations.

The current Bylaws state that our annual convention shall be held in Austin, TX on odd-numbered years, and in the even-numbered years, the convention location will be in a different city around the state.

The proposal is to hold convention in Austin on **even-numbered years** *instead of odd-numbered years*.

There are several reasons for this proposed change. The original motivation for meeting in Austin on odd-numbered was two-fold: 1) to allow TJCSGA members to meet with their legislators, who are in session during odd-numbered years, and 2) to allow TJCSGA members the opportunity to hold the final General Assembly meeting on the house floor of the Capitol.

Unfortunately, Austin’s accommodation costs are rapidly rising, and the costs are even higher during the legislative session. This is making it difficult to offer convention fees that our TJCSGA schools can afford, and our goal is always to include as many schools, and students, as possible. Holding our convention in the even-numbered years would save TJCSGA (and YOU) a lot of money!

Furthermore, with the adoption of Community College Day, we now have the opportunity to meet in Austin in February of odd-numbered years, when the legislature is in session, so meeting in April of that year is no longer critical.

In short, moving the Austin conventions to even-numbered years would save money; all TJCSGA students would still be able to hold one General Assembly meeting in the house chambers every other year; Community College Day allows us to go to Austin when the legislature is in session. This amendment would allow us to go to Austin once every year, rather than twice in 2 months.

Again, if you have any questions about this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the board!

Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery
Today is a gift.

-Eleanor Roosevelt

Nothing great was ever
achieved without enthusiasm.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

[Y]ou must
unite your
constituents
around a
common
cause and
connect with
them as human
beings.

-James
Kouzes and
Barry Posner

Effective leadership
is putting first things
first. Effective management
is discipline, carrying it
out.

-Stephen Covey

Student Apathy: Is it curable?

By: Brittney O'Rear
State Editor

During the last APCA convention we were presented with the ever growing problem of student apathy. We learned about students known as PCP's. That is "Parking Lot-Class-Parking Lot"- Basically students who come to school and turn around and leave.

Apathy is what occurs when any group loses interest and care towards

their organization. We see this happening more and more at the community college level.

I personally have been affected by student apathy within my own SGA.

The question posed is; How do we fix it? Some simple solutions include: have food at your events, shake things up and make them fun, be unique.

If you incorporate these things in your events .. AWESOME. If you have some better ideas.. Then send them in, I think I speak for boards around the state when we say we want to know. While student apathy exists it is curable with a little hard work and patience.

Community College Day 2007-2008

By Mellissia Troyer
State Vice President

Community College Day, started in 2005 by Cal Pifer and continued by Damian Tovar, has been a huge success. This year's executive board would like to take it to the next level by having community college days on the opposite year in which we are not in Austin. Therefore, we are asking that each college hold their own Community College Day on February 21, 2008. We are suggesting that you invite your state and local representatives to your campus to have a panel discussion. We would like you to use our four key points which are: Continuing education, Community Service, economic enhancement, and workforce development.

This event can be as big or small as you want it to be. We would like you to submit pictures and stories to the bulletin. If you have any questions you can call or e-mail any of the executive board members. We would love to hear from you and see what you have done on this important day.

By Sarah Butler
State Secretary

All About APCA

APCA this year was simply amazing. For those of you who don't know APCA stands for Association for Promotion of Campus Activities. I think I speak for the board when I say we had such a fun time. From the hilariously funny comedians to the loquacious, inspiring poets, APCA was exceptional this year. I can't forget to mention the bands and musicians that literally rocked the stage, no pun intended. Some of the various performers include: FLOREZ, Shawn Pander, and Alfred and Seymour, just to name a few. The hotel was luxurious as usual, housing some of the best Ed sessions around. Whether you wanted to learn how to program on a budget or how to jump start your next fundraiser, APCA had it covered. For those of you who have never been, APCA is something I highly recommend going to in the future. You learn and a lot, plus you get to sit and eat wonderful meals while watching some good entertainment.

Convention Dress Code: Do's and Don'ts

By: Patrick Buchanan
State Parliamentarian

After discussions at the last State Executive Board meeting, the board has decided to uphold the professional dress code at all the General Sessions at the 2008 State Convention except for the first General Assembly, which has been deemed school spirit or region look-alike night.

Ladies

- ◆ No Strapless Shirts
- ◆ No Spaghetti Straps
- ◆ Skirts no shorter than three inches above the knee
- ◆ No Flip Flops
- ◆ Slacks or skirt required
- ◆ No denim

Gentlemen

- ◆ Collared Shirt Required
- ◆ Tie is Required
- ◆ Any Color Slacks
- ◆ Coat is optional
- ◆ No Flip Flops
- ◆ No Athletic Shoes
- ◆ No denim



Meet your State Vice President Mellissia Troyer!

Hello. My name is Mellissia Troyer and I will be representing EPCC this year. The military brought my family to El Paso in 2001, but our love for the community has made El Paso our home. I have a wonderful husband who has served his country for sixteen years. We have six beautiful children (4 boys and 2 girls) ranging from 17 to 4 years of age. With my families support I was able to graduate from El Paso Community College this year. I need to finish up with some basics before I move on to a University in another year. My goal is to receive my Masters Degree in English so that I may return to EPCC to teach.



2008 Convention News

By Brittney O'Rear State Editor

The 2008 E-Board has put quite a bit of effort into this years conference in order for it to be one of the most exciting events to date. Our Vice President Mellissia Troyer has been EXTREMELY diligent in searching for not only the best entertainment but also the best speakers for key-notes and ed sessions. I'm sure everyone will appreciate her hard work.

This year the E-Board has decided to make the Toga party an official event. This means that instead of it being a random underground party we are actually planning a real dance with an awesome DJ. Don't forget your sheets as it promises to be a memorable experience.

On an important note and this note is truly for the Adviors PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE register by the deadlines. If you fail to register by the first two deadlines you will pay the onsite fee. **Any school who is not in good standing at the time of the conference will lose their voting privileges until all dues are covered.** We want every school to attend and every school to take part in voting. Help us in helping you. If you have any questions please feel free to contact ANY board member.

Registration Deadlines

Before February 1st(Early Bird Registration)- \$130 per Student \$140 Per Advisor

February 1st-April 1st (Normal Registration) \$150 per student \$160 per Advisor

April 1st– April 10th (On site Registration) \$ 175 per student \$180 per Advisor

Having Fun with the Executive Board

During the first weekend of November the Executive Board had the chance to host the fall meeting during the APCA convention. While the E-Board did get quite a bit of things accomplished, we did get the chance to have some fun. We're really excited about convention where we get the chance to have fun with all of you guys!



Advisors enjoy dinner at Joes Crab Shack: From bottom left- Heather Atchley, April Sessler, Brandon Franke, Cortney Curran



Cheesin it up!
Host School Rep Royce T. Eller and Secretary Sarah Butler



Hanging with the boys from Region Three
Royce Eller, Nick Curry, Brittney O'Rear, Pat Buchanan



Roomate Love!
Brittney O'Rear, Sarah Butler



Advisor Phil Sims and Vice President Mellissia Troyer.

The ability to concentrate and to use your time well is everything if you want to succeed in business--or almost anywhere else for that matter.

-Lee Iacocca



After a LONG night of Meeting smiles are STILL possibleSort of!

Advisor Elect Heather Atchley



Everybody Wang Chung Tonight

Secretary Sarah Butler and Advisor Elect Heather Atchley

Leaders aren't born they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal.

-Vince Lombardi

If you're still impressed with what you did yesterday then you haven't done enough today.

-Brittney O'Rear

Region IV battle begins

By: Brandon Franke
Advisor Blinn College –Bryan



The girls from Blinn College Bryan take a break from the meeting to pose for a picture



Region IV business meeting

The Region IV Fall Convention was held at Blinn College Bryan on October 12&13. Starting on Friday, the members of Region IV were entertained with Madden and Halo 3 tournaments, and the epic battle for the Region IV Cup; which went for the first time to TSTC Waco. Sister colleges Blinn Bryan and Brenham met in the 9th semi-annual Battle of the Brazos with Blinn Bryan winning ownership of the Blinn Cup until the Spring Convention.

On Saturday, it was Homecoming for past members of the Blinn College Bryan SGA, as 2005 State Parliamentarian Joe Buvid, 2006 State Treasurer Stacey Jones and 2007 State Host Shayna Spencer led breakout sessions ranging from “Beginning Parliamentary Procedure” to “How to Run for State Office”. These past members of the Blinn College Student Government Association shared their valuable insight into their experiences as TJCSGA’ers to motivate new members to get involved in the state organization.

The Honorable Representative from Brazos County, Fred Brown was the keynote speaker. Representative Brown serves as the Chair of the Higher Education Committee for the Texas House of Representatives. Afterward, the Region IV Convention meeting was called to order, and Vice President McLennan College was voted into office to fulfill a vacancy in that position. Blinn Bryan was elected Region IV Parliamentarian to fill a vacancy in that position as well. At the convention, the 2008 theme was chosen and a T-Shirt design was selected. Creation of the T-Shirts was awarded to Blinn Bryan and they will be available at the Spring Region.

The Spring Region IV convention will be held at Blinn-Brenham on February 2 & 3, 2008. Be watching on the forums for the latest details! Both the Region & Blinn Cup will be fought for again and 2008-2009 Region IV officers will be elected. Also, we will have our elections for Region IV representatives for Chapter, Student, and Advisor of the Year. The winners of these awards will represent Region IV at the state convention.

Money restored to Community Colleges equals MAJOR VICTORY

By Dr. Richard M. Sanchez
President
Navarro College

In July of this year, Governor Rick Perry vetoed \$154 million from funds appropriated by the 80th Legislature for community colleges in Texas. These funds, associated with employee health benefits, were the amount of funds appropriated for the second year of the biennium. The governor's rationale for this action stated that community colleges were reporting employees for health benefits who were ineligible to receive these health benefits.

The method used in determining eligible employees was the crux of the problem. Community colleges were using one approach and the Governor's staff was using another. The eligibility term is referred to as "proportionality", a procedure by which the state of Texas funds a proportionate share of costs rather than the full cost of items such as health benefits.

Community colleges were totally surprised with the governor's veto. The legislature had discussed the issue of proportionality and decided to fund community college health benefits at 90 percent of the total costs. Members of the legislature were also surprised and disappointed as the Governor's veto came after the legislative session came to a close. The governor's veto could not be addressed by the legislature and the only way the legislature could override the veto is for them to be called back to a special session by the governor.

Public reaction to the governor's veto was overwhelmingly negative. A campaign opposing the governor's action developed from the legislature to individual citizens who viewed this action as vindictive, irresponsible and unfair. The governor's veto created high visibility for community colleges and several legislative hearings were held to assess the impact the governor's veto had created.

Community college districts reported that a loss in employee health benefits for 2009 resulting from the governor's veto would compel increases in ad valorem taxes, tuition and fees, a reduction in program offerings, and suspension of services provided by individual college districts. The potential of increases in ad valorem taxes and tuition and fees caused extreme concern on behalf of the legislature. Lieut. Gov. David Dewhurst and several legislators became committed to resolving the matter by having the \$154 million restored.

In October, 2007, the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the house announced that the \$154 million would be restored to community colleges in Texas. Naturally, this news was well received by community college districts.

If the funds vetoed by the governor would have not been restored, the potential impact on students would have included an increase in tuition and fees, services provided by individual community college districts could have been suspended and selected programs could have been eliminated. Fortunately for all concerned, the funds vetoed by the governor have been restored.

Community colleges are essential to the economy of Texas. Community colleges prepare students with workplace skills in health-related occupations, fire and law enforcement. They also prepare technicians for a variety of occupations necessary to "drive" the economy. The Texas Legislature must invest in the future of community colleges by providing the funds needed to comply with our mission. Community colleges enroll 70 percent of all undergraduate students in Texas higher education and 60 percent of all students attending higher education in Texas. And they only receive 12 percent of the funding allocated to higher education in Texas. One does not have to be a community college graduate to understand that something is terribly wrong with the present finance mechanism which allocates 12 percent funding to such a vital entity in the overall economy of Texas.

REMINDERS

- Please utilize the TJCSGA forums.. They're the best form of communication between schools and the executive board concerning any issues. The forums can be found at: www.TJCSGA.org .
- IF NOT REGISTERED BY FIRST TWO DEADLINES SCHOOL MUST PAY ON SITE REGISTRATION FEE
- If dues are not in good standing TJCSGA has the right to revoke voting rights until all dues are confirmed.
- Deadlines are as follows
 - Before February 1st (Early Bird)
 - \$130.00 per student
 - \$140.00 per advisor
 - February 1st-April 1st (Regular Registration)
 - \$150.00 per student
 - \$160.00 per advisor
 - April 1st-Convention (On-site)
 - \$175.00 per student
 - \$185.00 per advisor

In the next Issue!!!

- More of Meet your State Board
- NEW Region Showcase
- The benefits of community outreach

** If you wish to submit an article for The TJCSGA Bulletin please submit it either via email to editor@tjcsge.org OR by the submission link from the TJCSGA website.**