



The STAR

Awards Issue!

Texas Community Education Association
www.tcea.com

Spring 2011

How shall we do this?

by Phil Houseal
TCEA President



Note: This is a column I wrote for the Community Journal newspaper in Kerrville following our conference. I thought it appropriate for The Star.

I was honored to be named President of the Texas Community Education Association last week. It is more of a challenge than an honor, really - it is no secret that education is facing uncertain economic times in Texas.

But the real value in holding a state office is the wider perspective it allows.

During one conference event, I was privileged to share a table with two delightful ladies who work at a community education program in Beaumont. We were comparing notes on what courses were popular in our very different communities. While country-western dance tops our list of favorites in the Hill Country, the Beaumont folks turn out most for Zydeco dancing! Hmm... might be an idea there for next session.

At the other end of the state - about as far from Beaumont as you can get - a community educator in Dalhart brought a for-

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Ready, Set, Go!

Conference sets new directions for Community Education

The 2011 TCEA Conference was powerful and productive as more than 50 community educators gathered at the Y.O. Hotel in Kerrville April 3-5, 2011.

If you were not there, you missed:

- Leia Francisco providing insight and tools to deal with change - personal and career
- How to manage your staff
- The Nuts & Bolts of starting and running a successful program
- How to be creative
- How to run an Advisory board
- Best ways to offer adult education

Plus the many opportunities to network - formally and informally - with community educators across the state. Those included the team building and the World Cafe - a conversational approach to addressing community education issues.

A record number of exhibitors and vendors were on hand as Partners of the Foundation (see listing on page 5).

The conference wrapped up on Tuesday

with the Awards Banquet (see winners inside).

The event may have ended, but the work goes on as TCEA strives to continue bringing lifelong learning to Texans through all times, both good and better.

Let's go forward together!

SBSI Joins Foundation

Editor: Throughout the year we are introducing TCEA members to our Foundation Partners with articles and links. Our Partners offer products and services of interest to community educators, while helping support the Foundation. Complete listing of current Partners inside.

As a provider of enrichment and after school classes, registering students, scheduling facilities, and collecting fees are probably your biggest challenges. SBSI, Inc. - one of the Texas Community Education Foundation's newest partners - now offers web-based software solutions that will help you handle these and more.

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According to Rick Ruggles, President, SBSI Software has actually been doing that since 1991, when Bob Bickett started the company in Minnesota. Their three top products now are eClassTrak, eSiteTrak, and eClassTrak-SACC (School Age Child Care).

"We provide online software for class registration, facilities management and school age child care. Our clients include community education programs, parks & rec dept.'s, camps, aquatic centers and more," Ruggles said. The company's solutions save time for both patrons and staff. "By eliminating the need to install software, manage hardware and handle support and upgrade hassles, eClassTrak is guaranteed to be a great cost effective solution for you."

eClassTrak is a Web-based student registration and program management software that is designed specifically for the school environment. Students can browse, register and pay for classes online then receive an email confirmation/receipt, saving time for both students and staff.

eSiteTrak is their facilities management module. It allows staff to schedule and search available space by facility, space type, capacity or a variety of other user defined categories. Schedules are then displayed in an easy to read calendar format.

The newest module is eClassTrak SACC - School Age Child Care. This allows parents to select care schedules, review account balances and make payments online 24/7 from any web based PC.

Ruggles realizes there are many options for online registration software.

"If I had to point out the biggest difference, it is that we have been around longer," he said. "We offer more personalized service and support. You won't find any customers that have one bad word to say about us. And I don't know many companies of our size where you can still talk to the founder, and - more important - still get answers!"

Their web site lists some success stories, but Ruggles noted one compliment that stood out. "I asked a client how things were going, and they replied it was 'going well - the program cuts my job in half - just don't tell my boss!'"

The SBSI family of products does deliver efficiency.



Kristen Bye and Rick Ruggles of SBSI Software.

"We don't like to say it reduces staff, but it does free up staff to do other important things, rather than using their valuable time to answer phone calls and take manual registrations," Ruggles said.

SBSI's pricing is tied to the size of the program "making it affordable to both smaller and larger districts." Once the school purchases the online engine, they have the option to link our modules in any combination. Each module has a one-time license fee. Monthly or annual fees are based on number of registrations.

SBSI has had a presence mostly in Minnesota, and Michigan, but is now reaching out to other states. They serve more than 350 clients in 32 states, and would like to build more partnerships in Texas, where they have had long relationships with Cleburne and Mesquite ISDs.

"Texas has been identified as very active community education state. Through this partnership with TCEA, we want to get to know how community education works in Texas. We want to be involved and meet some of the people in Texas. That's why we joined the foundation."

Special Offer

SBSI Software Inc. would like to extend an exclusive \$5,000* discount offer to TCEA Members. Dependent upon the size of the school this may allow for virtually \$0 start-up costs!

**Off of our "One Time License Fees"*

Contact:

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The Star

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The official newsletter of the Texas Community Education Association
Phil Houseal, Editor

To Submit An Item

Please send articles to:

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1121 Second St. • Kerrville TX 78028
830-257-2218 • FAX 830-257-0566
phouseal@tcea.com

Change of Address

Email changes to info@tcea.com

To Join

Helen Kimsey, Executive Director
info@tcea.com
10127 Silver Park, San Antonio, TX 78254
210-355-2548

Dues

Institutional = \$125 *Best Deal!*
Up to 8 professional members and 20 advisory board members
Professional = \$60
Any individual supervising a community education program
Associate/Retiree = \$20
Advisory Council Member = \$20

To Support The Foundation

Help develop Community Education in Texas. Send donations to:
Texas CE Foundation
1121 Second Street
Kerrville TX 78028

Web Site

www.tcea.com
Up-to-date news, events, forums, forms, online directory.

Contact

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Awards!

Rookie of the Year

Marie Abigail Nash is a dynamo! Abby has been the Training Coordinator for the Kids' Involvement Network (KIN) for less than one year, but during that short time has transformed not only the training component of KIN but also the very culture of the organization.



Abby Nash (center) receives Rookie of the Year, presented by Donna Davenport, TCEA President, and Becky Stoughton, North East ISD, Foundation President

Star of Excellence Awards

Outstanding Catalog

Debby Theis, Dripping Springs ISD
Mary Mora, Northside ISD



Outstanding Website

Shirley Wright, Center Point ISD
Carrie Smith, Northeast ISD



Photos by Sylvia Renick, Dalhart ISD

Awards!

Outstanding Community Educator

Betty Tromm, Center Point ISD
 Brenda Sessums, Judson ISD
 Valerie Ryan, North East ISD
 Susan Sutherland, Northside ISD
 Robert & Susan Garden, Weatherford ISD



Outstanding Instructor - Betty Tromm, Center Point ISD



Leo Sanchez accepts an award for his district.

Years of Service

5 Years

Joanne Doll, North East ISD
 Waverly Jones, North East ISD
 Beverly Mitchell, North East ISD
 Andrea Garza, Northside ISD
 Federico R. Reyna, Jr., Northside ISD
 Mel Lehman, Northside ISD

10 Years

Chandler Dixon, Northside ISD
 Roger Saenz, Northside ISD

15 Years

John Beverung, Weatherford ISD

20 Years

Donnie McGowen, Weatherford ISD



Donnie McGowen, Weatherford ISD, honored for 20 years of service and Outstanding Event



Phil Houseal, incoming TCEA President, presents Donna Davenport with her own gavel to commemorate her year as President.

ACE Awards

Bright Idea

Roger Saenz, Northside ISD
 Eric Esquibel, Northside ISD

Outstanding Community Ed Event

Donnie McGowen, Weatherford ISD

Outstanding Business Partnership

Learning Tree, Northside ISD

Outstanding After School Program

Becky Stoughton, Northeast ISD

Outstanding Summer Camp

Diana Hanz, Gloria Triana, Becky Farrow, Judson ISD



Foundation Partners

The following organizations have joined TCEA in helping support the Foundation. Thank you!



Augusoft Lumens®

Augusoft develops and maintains Lumens - the first entirely web-hosted Lifelong Learning Management System (LLMS).

Josh Siegel

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SBSI Software, Inc.

SBSI Software Inc.

Providing on-line class registration, facilities management, and School Age Child Care software for community education. SBSI, Inc. is committed to providing our users with state of the art software that is efficient, affordable and easy to learn and use, while providing software that will simplify work loads for employees and allow organizations to better serve their clientele.

46665 Magellan Drive, Novi, MI 48377

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Dollar Energy Group

For 10 years, Dollar Energy has been helping over 300 companies face the growing challenges of rising energy costs.

403-A N Interurban

Richardson TX 75081

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Kevin Richeson: 214-738-7550

info@denergygroup.com

To Support the Foundation

The Foundation is actively seeking partnerships with vendors, businesses, and organizations. Since 1998 the Foundation has played a part in starting many projects.

Anyone interested in supporting the Foundation can contact Phil Houseal, 830-257-2218, info@tcea.com



Classware Systems

Classware has been a leader in providing flexible and powerful registration processing with a strong back house accounting system since 1994. In 2010, they added an integrated web-store.

Nev Hewitt

10670 North Central Expressway

6th Floor

Dallas, TX 75231

(214) 377-0432 Office

(817) 845-4824 Mobile

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RevTrak

RevTrak is the premier provider of e-commerce solutions for schools and local governments.

Karen House

815 Yellowstone Dr, Grapevine TX 76051

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khouse@revtraktexas.com

www.revtrak.com



Kids On Course

We use the wonderful game of golf to reinforce the cornerstones of character, discipline, and perseverance. We've designed our programs to teach students to dream, to strive, and to achieve.

Sheila Fitzgerald

(p)210-404-1616

(f) 210-568-4878

email: info@kocga.com



PlanetKidz, Inc. & Companies

Planet Kidz is a statewide network of youth programs, designed to give kids in grades 3 through 8 a safe, fun place to be together after school.

Dale Oakes

330 Oaks Trail, Suite 118

Garland, Texas 75043

(p) 972-772-6000

(c) 972-877-8423

www.planetkidz.org

daleskidz@aol.com

Comments from Conference

mer youth minister turned insurance agent turned fundraiser for West Texas A&M in Canyon. He shared insights on his challenging quest to raise awareness and support for the arts in a part of the state that is known more for roping and wind farms than for opera and ballet.

We learned of large community education programs that are cutting back, and tiny ones that are growing. Right here in Kerr County, Center Point ISD was honored for starting its own community education program last year. Director Shirley Wright and Superintendent Cody Newcomb led a session on how to start a program in any district, no matter how small. We were especially tickled we could honor one of their teachers - Betty Tromm - as an Outstanding Community Educator for the entire state.

In spite of the many forms it takes, lifelong learning is alive and well, and more important than ever as our population ages and the world changes. I've always preached that school doesn't end at 3:30, and we don't stop learning at age 18, or 22, or ever.

When I taught gifted and talented youngsters back in Iowa, on the first day of class I liked to announce that I was not going to teach them anything the entire year. Once their eyebrows slid back down their foreheads, I explained that no one can really teach anyone anything: knowledge only comes from learning. A subtle difference, but it made the point that each one of us is ultimately responsible for what we learn in life. I've seen students in third world countries stacked 40 deep in bare classrooms who come out as engineers and doctors; I've watched NBA Hall of Fame players who learned to shoot baskets through a hoop on a barn in the snow.

That spirit of learning is what drew me to the field of community education. What a miracle! To lead a program where everyone learns anything they care to learn, all the time!

And I continue to learn.

My task for the coming year is to lead the state organization through some interesting times.

How shall I do this?

**Don't forget to vote!
Watch for board ballot**

Feedback from attendees (60% return rate)

Most Useful

- Networking
- Breakouts
- Fresh presenters
- Variety of sessions
- World Café
- Info on professional development
- New ideas
- Team building

Best-received sessions/activities

- Leia Francisco
- What Not to Print
- Learning Beyond the Bell
- Homework Time
- Career Roadmap
- How Secure is Your Program?
- Get What You Want from Staff
- World Café
- Community Ed Timeline
- GED/ESL
- Nuts & Bolts
- Rules of the Road
- Be Creative
- No Community Too Small
- Calming Communication Chaos
- Skills for Live for Every Child

Suggestions for Future Conferences

- Central location
- Webinars
- Bigger city location
- Like starting on Sunday
- Skype
- Quarterly regional meetings
- New ideas for breakouts
- Condense to 1.5 days
- Last day – breakfast only
- North Texas
- Near airport with shuttle service
- TCEA provide hosts to pickup at airport (avoid rental car cost)
- Ask community or partners to sponsor those who travel long distances
- Two conferences (1 North/1 South) with different programs

General Suggestions

- Increase recruiting efforts
- More vendors
- More breakouts
- Communication
- Offer high interest breakouts twice
- Use first night to get acquainted

- Move awards to Sunday night
- Provide a tour of local area
- More vendors that offer educational materials
- Introduce the Board
- Incentives for attendance
- Better technology
- Better organization
- Job well done

Facility

- Food excellent
- All o.k.
- Staff were great
- Wonderful facility
- Meeting rooms excellent
- Rooms old but comfortable
- Rooms very nice
- Clean rooms
- Rooms need updating
- Accommodations not as expected
- More menu variety (healthier)
- Too much food
- Food not hot
- Would like fridge, microwave, shampoo, etc. in room
- Internet connection inconsistent
- Board was very organized
- Good location



Yes!

We are on Facebook!

Go to www.facebook.com
and search for
Texas Community Education
(Official)

See photos, links, notes.
www.tcea.com