



The STAR

CE: All I need to know



Bill Hoelscher,
TCEA President

All I ever need to know I learned from community education.

This bold statement is based on one afternoon's reflection, as I stared out my office window at the bay of Corpus Christi.

Recently I changed jobs, from working for a school district to a non-profit. I had spent the morning looking at the piles of papers amassing on my desk. I had separated them by the coordinating activity, into several stacks. There was one for my quarterly report, one for the monthly report, another for a new program I was to implement, a stack for a current grant I was working on to establish a community center, and of course the dreaded fund raiser I had been assigned, because as the new guy, I had no idea what I was getting into.

"When planning for a year, plant corn. When planning for a decade, plant trees. When planning for life, train and educate people." Chinese proverb: Guanzi (c. 645 BC)

Reflection had started after someone asked me how I could possibly manage to accomplish everything that was expected of me and why I took on more activities. I had no answer. I began to ponder. How was I going to do it? Then I went back to the basics that I had learned through community education:

Texas Community Education Association
www.tcea.com

Fall 2008

Community Education: A True Texas Treasure

Conference Chair Debby Theis is busy putting together a packed and productive conference in Corpus Christi on April 19-22, 2009.

Starting with pre-conference sessions on Leadership and After-School, through the Awards Banquet, attendees will discover all the ways community education is a program Texans treasure.

Plans call for strands on community education and after-school, with keynotes and innovative breakouts.

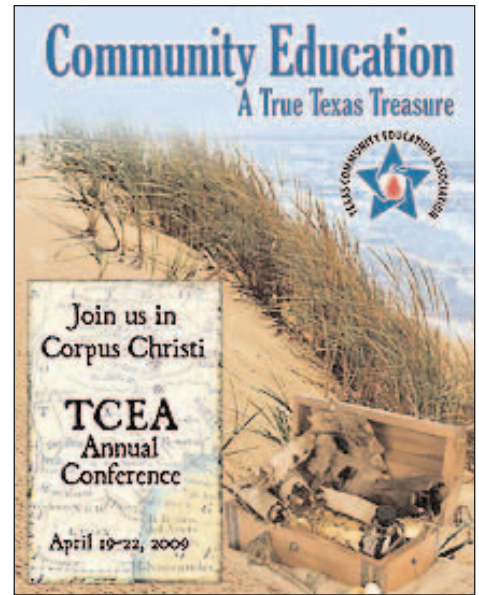
Of course Corpus Christi offers many diversions, including the Lexington and the Texas State Aquarium, Harbor Cruises, great restaurants and site-seeing.

Keynote speakers include Pete Hinojosa, discussing his "Living a Life of Influence," and Fred Bayley of LERN offering sessions on trends and dealing with tough times.

Sprinkled throughout are roundtables, discussions, and ample time for sharing. Vendors and exhibitors will show their wares throughout. Partners who support the Foundation plan to provide information and breakout sessions on their products and services.

Details and final schedules will follow. For up to date information visit the web site at www.clubed.net. **Or contact:**

Debby Theis
(512) 858-3021
debby.theis@dripping-springs.txed.net



Mark your calendars!

April 19-22, 2009

Don't forget to bring your booty for the Silent Auction by the sea!



Arrrrrrrgh!

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The Star

09.1

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

To Submit An Item

Please send articles to:
Phil Houseal • Kerrville ISD
1121 Second St. • Kerrville TX 78028
830-257-2218 • FAX 830-257-0566
phouseal@tcea.com

Change of Address

Log on to www.tcea.com and update
your contact information.

To Join

Helen Kimsey, Executive Secretary
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210-355-2548

Dues

Institutional (*New!*) = \$125
See application inside for details
Professional = \$60
Paraprofessional = \$20
Advisory Council Member = \$20
Retired Professional = \$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, password-protected
member area. Go here to join, update
contact info.

Contact

Helen Kimsey, Executive Secretary
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210-355-2548



www.tcea.com

Web WOW!

Easier, faster, more powerful

Remember, you can find the latest news and information at the web site - www.tcea.com.

You will find:

- **News** - Go here to find the latest news across the state. Members are encouraged to submit articles.
- **Events** - Again, here is the place to post notices of state and local events.
- **Start a Project** - Links and information to tapping into the TAP program to improve local projects.
- **Contact** - Here is where the general public can find out more about projects in their areas. We have posted links to local projects: if you have not done so, please submit the URL to your program's web page and we will post.
- **Member Resources** - This link will take members to our member database. There you can update your own contact information. You are also able to search the directory and generate mailing labels and lists.

The saying that "a website is never finished" holds true here. Please submit your comments, suggestions, news, events, and information so we can continue to keep everyone informed of the great benefits of Community Education.

We want YOUR news! Submit news, events, and photos of your project for posting on the web site to phouseal@tcea.com. We also want links to your website. And don't forget to update your personal contact information. It is all at www.tcea.com!

Notes...

from the Executive Secretary



by Helen Kimsey

You are back into the groove and busy as usual planning classes, programs and taking care of after school youngsters. I have been busy providing training for the Texas Education Agency and University of Texas - San Antonio students. It is always surprising to me how many people do not know about community education. My goal is to spread the word as far as I can, so that when I ask someone about community education they will say, "of course I know about it".

Your Board has been hard at work planning the next annual conference to be held in Corpus Christi in April, 2009. Many of you would have liked to attend the LERN national conference but due to limited finances and the no out-of-state travel rules, you were not able, I have great news for you. Next April our Keynote Speaker will be Fred Bayley from LERN. He will give a keynote address, plus two breakout sessions. This will provide an opportunity for Texans to hear all of the latest trends without leaving the state. We will have many new speakers and provide training that can

benefit our members, so mark your calendars now.

I have begun a new project called "Hints from Helen". These can be seen on your email and I hope that you will find them useful. The first hint is about Procrastination. I have been trying to send this out for months, but... Every few weeks I will send a new hint and if you like them, or even if you don't, please let me know.

Check out the new Institutional Membership category, eight professional members and up to 20 advisory board members for \$125. This would be an excellent vehicle to promote your program as each listed member would receive a copy of the Star and any other pertinent emails. Want your Superintendent, School Board or Supervisor to know what is happening around the state or in neighboring towns in community education? This is one way to provide them with the information; we in Community Education have a habit of not "tooting our own horn" enough.

Regional meetings for TCEA will be held in an area near you in the next few months so watch your e-mails for details. Again, this is a way to participate, but not have to travel great distances. Your Board is very cognitive of the limited resources available in school districts in these hard economic times.

Welcome Back, Mauri

After a two-year stint in Idaho, Mauri Williams, past president of Texas Community Education Association, has returned to Texas.

Mauri was Director of Community Education in the Dumas ISD during the 1990s, and then served as Executive Director of their School Foundation - one of the first in the state. She and her family relocated to Boise, Idaho, and returned to the state this summer. Her husband Kyle works with Clear Channel and the family now lives in Boerne.

Mauri has missed all her TCEA friends and invites you to contact her:

208-949-3538

maurikwilliams@hotmail.com



News from the Regions



Northside instructor honored

by Lydia Martinez

The Texas Education Agency held its annual training for GED examiners in Austin September 22 thru 25. At the closing session Northside ISD's chief examiner, Joyce Hopper, was presented with the "Outstanding Texas GED Chief Examiner" award. Northside has a very active testing center testing not only Northside residents but people from all areas of San Antonio and surrounding towns. It was also noted that Joyce Hopper is always willing to work with and test special needs candidates, many centers do not. Our center has been a recognized center for a number of years and has trained new examiners for other centers. Mrs. Hopper has been an examiner in Northside for 15 years of which she has been chief examiner for 10 years.



Vidor skips fall classes

by Sally Kirkpatrick

Vidor ISD did not have any Fall programs --- we had hurricanes instead! We are busy gearing up for a very busy Spring semester, which will include some brand new classes including Bollywood, toning and fitness, one stroke painting, and painting on glass.

Mesquite brings home the bacon

Vicki Helms of Mesquite ISD reports the Advisory Council hosted an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast for \$5 at Applebee's as a fundraiser. The menu was pancakes, sausage patties, and beverage of your choice. She reports:

Our staff worked as the wait staff! Applebee's opens up on Saturday mornings and allows organizations or groups to raise money for whatever. We had about 10 members plus one member had his grandson and two friends helping, too. Applebee's supplies the cooks, food, etc., and they bill us at the end. We accept only cash and just pay them out of that. In the past, we only paid for the sausage, but they are now charging for all their expenses. It's still a good way to earn money. We made over \$800, but had to pay them \$250.

We had a ball doing this. It goes from 8:30-10:30 a.m. We sold tickets ahead of time, but not that many were sold - maybe 60 or 70 - the rest was all walk-in business. We had someone greet folks at the door and collect their tickets or money. We had a couple of people in the back putting the sausage, syrup, and butter on the plates and the second person putting ice in cups and fixing drinks. The rest of us 'bussed' tables! It was so much fun thanking everyone and giving them great service.

This event is always a great success for each organization. Ball clubs, church groups, school groups - you name it, they do this each year, too. A group can only do this once or twice a year. They are already booked through November of 2009! Can you believe that?! They are super folks to work with, too. I can't tell you enough what a great organization they are!

We use these funds for scholarships for adults or kids to attend our classes. We don't pay for all of the classes, but will pay a large portion so that they can attend. It really works out well.



(Above) Vicki Helms thanks Mesquite Advisory Council Member Sarah Harp for her help serving up breakfast at a Community Education fundraiser with Applebee's.



Region III Report

by Donna Davenport
Northside ISD



An e-mail blast with "Save the Date" information for our conference in the spring was sent on Thursday, October 9, 2008. The e-mail reminded everyone to register and pay their annual dues. I added 12 new people to the distribution list.

Diana Hanz and I will work together again and host our regional meeting in February 2008. We will have a guest speaker and explore two topics (TBA) that are of interest. We will get together in January to do all of the planning.

Northside ISD campuses have embraced "Going Green" so we have learned about the 3 R's reduce, reuse and recycle. Local students have conducted several service learning projects on this topic and have really made a difference. I was thinking that our TCEA conference might consider incorporating a class that teaches our communities how to use these concepts.

Region I Report

by Vicki Helms
Mesquite ISD



We invited TCEA board members, MISD school board members and administrators to a luncheon meeting on Friday, November 21, 2009. They met at the Professional Development Center in Mesquite with lunch served by the catering department.

Focus was on Community Education issues, growing TCEA membership, needs of local programs, encouraging new programs through TAP grants, trends, innovative programs, and the 2009 Conference.

Region II Report

by Diana Hanz
Judson ISD



Joint Meetings

Regions II & III will have a joint meeting on Feb 18, 2009 at the Northside ISD Learning Center in San Antonio. The focus will be on a day of in-service training and to promote the spring TCEA State Conference in Corpus Christi.

Passing of a friend

Beverly Oliver's daughter, Taj Brown, passed away after a 9-year fight with cancer. Beverly started Adult & Community Education in Judson. Taj was one of the first ESL teachers hired in the district.

Member Updates

We are currently working on updating the Region II list and plan to contact non-members to promote starting up new Community Education programs and memberships in TCEA.

CE: All I need... From Page 1

1. If you don't know, ask. Our peers are the greatest resources. I have yet to meet anyone in community education who did not want to share ideas or was not willing to reach out and assist someone else in being successful.

2. Try it. If it doesn't work, so what, you learned something. The worst thing that can happen is that you look for a new way to be successful and to serve your community.

If not for the opportunities we provide, who will teach that senior; who will create a nurturing environment for youth; who will educate the disenfranchised?

3. Plan for every contingency, and know that something will always go wrong. Despite covering every angle, you cannot control the weather or other people. So when something doesn't work the way you planned, most people won't know and won't care. They will be too busy having fun and there is no need to tell the differently.

Fortified by this knowledge, I started diving into my piles. I knew that if I could create a successful evening for parents and kids, with little more than pipe cleaners, glue and felt scraps, I could do anything.

The community educator is the greatest resource in our communities. I make this bold statement with true sincerity. If not for the opportunities we provide, who will teach that senior how to use e-mail and stay in touch with a changing world; who will create a safe and nurturing environment for youth, during out of school hours; who will educate the disenfranchised who have difficulty in reading and writing; who will give the unemployed a boost by helping them learn new skills; who will create an environment, where someone can meet and make new friends, rather than spending another night sitting alone?

We keep people connected and we keep them relevant. That is why I am now looking at a clean desk and am about to go home for the night, knowing that as a community educator, I can do anything.





Community education: Keeping the lights on in our schools

BY DAVID KNEPPER

Editor's Note: Mr. Knepper contacted me in October for information on the Texas and the National community education associations. He is an advocate for the concept - here is his column as it appeared in the Johnstown PA Tribune-Democrat, October 31, 2008

— The conversation on public education in America has been punctuated by the dismal showing of U.S. teens in math and science competency when compared with their peers in other industrialized countries.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which administers the international test, reported in 2007 that U.S. teens fell in the middle of the pack in science, and did somewhat worse in math, of the 30 industrialized countries.

Finland's 15-year-olds did the best on the science test, followed by students in Hong Kong and Canada.

Students in Finland, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong were the top performers in math.

From these results, one could conclude that our teens will not be well prepared for future challenges; nor to analyze, reason and communicate effectively; nor to have the capacity to continue learning throughout life.

For the past decade, from the corner coffee shop to the kitchen table, Americans have not given high grades to public education nationwide. Why, they ask, are so many students failing to achieve at grade level in reading and math.

Could America be losing an entire generation of kids who will not have the skills to compete in the global economy?

With school taxes going up and standardized test scores going down, taxpayers are beginning to recognize that increased educational spending may not contribute significantly to student outcomes. Perhaps the answer might lie outside the walls of education.

School districts have long recognized the need for public support and participation.

More than ever, successful schools have

come to recognize the interdependency on strong community support to meet mandated state and national performance standards, develop innovative programs, and secure financial resources.

To build lasting community support for schools to facilitate student achievement, school officials need to engage the community, for example, in developing after-school remediation programs staffed by volunteers who could be retired teachers or paraprofessionals.

One of the most successful ways to achieve such a relationship is to develop a community education program.

The process of building such partnerships, called public engagement, is an ongoing, two-way communication process between a school and the community it serves, according to Michael Resnick, associate executive director of the National School Boards Association.

In this model, according to Resnick, the schools and communities develop well-integrated, purposeful partnerships to create life-learning experiences.

Education is viewed as a birth-to-death process, and everyone in the community – individuals, businesses and public and private agencies – shares in the responsibility of educating all members of the community and providing lifelong learning opportunities for learners of all ages, backgrounds and needs.

One of the most successful ways to achieve such a relationship is to develop a community education program.

The educational philosophy that underlies community schools advocates the creation of opportunities for community participants, namely individuals, businesses and both public and private organizations, to become partners in addressing community needs.

A community education program is established outside the traditional school day for the purpose of providing academic, recreation, health, social service and work-

preparation programs for people of all ages.

Community education offers local residents, community agencies and institutions the opportunity to become active partners in providing educational opportunities in addressing community concerns such as parenting classes; school-to-work, also called school-to-career or work preparation programs; alternative schools for those whose needs are not met in the regular school; mentoring programs; teen pregnancy prevention; substance abuse and violence prevention activities; school-age child care; extended learning programs; community service and service learning activities; enrichment programs for all community members; literacy and English-as-a-second-language programs; and adult basic education and graduate equivalency diploma programs.

Investing in our communities through educational outreach and intergenerational learning should be our priorities. Community education can be that gateway to improve student achievement when the “whole village comes together to help children learn.”

Our community members can work with our schools to identify and link community needs and resources in a manner that helps all people to help themselves and to raise the quality of life in their community.

Let's keep the lights on in our schools to facilitate the learning and participation of adults and children so they can improve their lives and their communities.

David A. Knepper of Adams Township has held several professional positions: Cambria County community and economic development specialist, school superintendent, principal and college teacher. He holds a doctorate in educational administration from Penn State. He is executive director of the Forest Hills Regional Alliance. Copyright © 1999-2008 cnhi, inc.



TCEA Membership Application 08-09

Name: _____

Date: _____

Institution/Agency: _____

TCEA Region: _____

Title/Position: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Check one (see explanation at right)

- Institutional Membership \$125
- Professional Member \$60
- Associate/Retiree Member \$20
- Advisory Council Member \$20

(Opt) Accept my donation to the Texas Community Education Foundation \$ _____

Make checks payable to: TCEA
Please return application and remittance to:
Sally Kirkpatrick, Treasurer, TCEA
120 E. Bolivar
Vidor, TX 77662
(409) 951-8713
skirkpatrick@vidorisd.org.

For office use only:

Check #: _____ Date Received: _____

TCEA Region#: _____

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Rejoining _____

Explanation of new Membership Categories

Institutional Membership \$125 NEW!

This membership may include up to eight (8) professional members and twenty (20) advisory board members. Please fill out a separate form for each member so that they may receive the Star newsletter and other updates.

Professional Member \$60

For all professional members of Community Education. Anyone serving as a CE director, coordinator, supervisor, or other type of administrator of a CE program, whether full time or as part of other job duties. Even if an individual is classified as a paraprofessional within their district, if they are in charge of a Community Education program, they are considered a professional member of TCEA.

Associate/Retiree Member \$20

This category was designed for anyone who works in support of Community Education, including superintendents, school board members, secretaries, assistants, paraprofessional staff, clerks, volunteers, instructors, students, citizens, etc. Associate Membership for local school board members and superintendents is a great way to raise their awareness of Community Education.

Advisory Council Member \$20

This category is for local Community Education advisory council members. TCEA encourages local programs to have their Council members join the state organization.

Texas Community Education Foundation (TCEF)

Your donations are used to develop and expand Community Education projects in Texas. If contributions are made with individual funds, donations may be included in dues checks. If contributions are made with district, or other restricted funds, a separate check made out to TCEF for funds donated by individuals is required. TCEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization – your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by existing tax laws.

The Foundation

The mission of the Texas Community Education Foundation is to encourage the development and expansion of Community Education projects in Texas.

It accomplishes this in four ways:

- 1) through the formation of new projects,
- 2) the development of innovative programs,
- 3) supporting research and development, and
- 4) educating the population about the benefits of community education.

The process of getting support to projects is through the Technical Assistance Partnership, an award program set up by the Texas Community Education Association and funded by the Foundation.

Funding Sources

The Foundation is funded through individual and organization donations, funds from partnerships with businesses and vendors, and money raised from the Silent Auction at the annual conference (see Partners sidebar).

There is an ongoing search for major underwriters, with the goal of someday having enough principle to generate enough interest to fund the initiatives.

Become a Part

The Foundation is a strong step toward future growth and autonomy, a solid way to bring the benefits of community education to more citizens of Texas. You can help by

- 1) identifying potential partners
- 2) donating to the Foundation

Send your contribution to TCEF, 1121 Second St., Kerrville TX 78028. For more information call 830-257-2218.

To find out more about becoming a Partner, contact Phil Houseal, 830-257-2218, phouseal@tcea.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 nine programs.

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

Foundation Partners

The following organizations have joined TCEA in helping support the Foundation, bringing the benefits of community education to more Texans.



Beth Moorhead

LUMENS

Lumens is the original web-based Lifelong Learning Management System, empowering programs to customize their product, operate in real time, sell 24/7, follow program trends, and improve their bottom line.

More information:

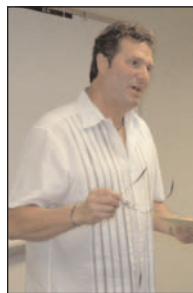
www.augusoft.net

(612) 605-1200

info@augusoft.net

4050 Olson Memorial Hwy, Suite 245

Golden Valley, MN 55422-5353



Dale Oakes

PlanetKidz

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. Events include PlanetKidz, Friday Nite Live, Fun Time Live, and AmericasKidz.

More information:

www.planetkidz.org

972-772-6000

daleskidz@aol.com

2010 Industrial Blvd #604

Rockwall, Texas 75087

Fax: (972) 772-3737



Mike Sprute

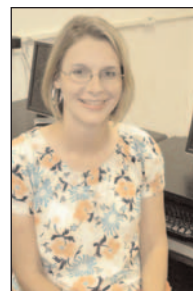
Collette Vacations

Collette has extensive experience with affinity travel programs. For 90 years Collette Vacations has established a reputation for quality and value offering unique travel opportunities on all seven continents. Today Collette Vacations is one of the largest travel companies in the U.S and a global provider of vacations with offices in Canada, London.

More information:

www.collettevacations.com

800-922-7005



Computer Explorers

Computer Explorers provides engaging technology programs for after-school and summer camps. The educator-designed curriculum features core subject integration and includes the technology needed to make the class work. Teachers are certified and understand how children learn. Students to learn together in small groups as they experiment with robots, digital microscopes, movie making and photography, elementary engineering, and more.

Kathy Patterson

830-257-8710

khpatterson@windstream.net

Procrastination

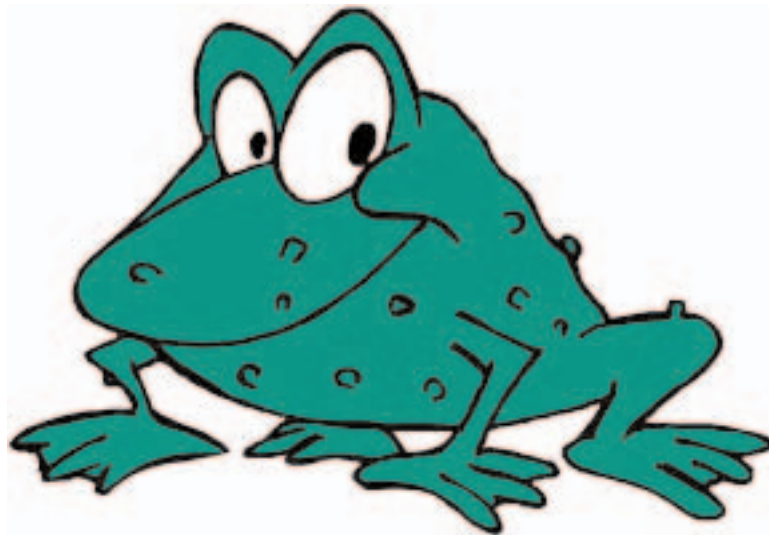
or

Why it's a good idea to eat a live toad

Procrastination! What a lovely word. I am not lazy, confused or unproductive, I am a procrastinator.

The act of putting things off until the last minute has become a way of life for me. However, I am not suggesting that this is the way everyone should live. If it bothers you or if you are one of those people who would like to change here are a few tips for you.

1. Remember that time gets away from us, so set a time limit. I am going to return phone calls between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. beginning with the most difficult, everyone after that will seem easy.
2. When papers come across your desk divide them into three stacks. To file, act now and toss, do not handle a piece of paper more than once. Remember, I'll do that later is not a stack.
3. If you have to have the perfect workplace before you can begin a project, then clear the area the night before. Take 15 minutes to file, de-clutter and set out the tools you will need to get started.
4. If you think "I don't have enough time today" break the project down into doable segments. Give yourself small deadlines and stick to it. For example, I will finish "A" by 3:00 p.m." then tell someone of your plan just to keep you honest.



5. Make a LIST. However, be realistic. If you put a hundred items on your list, that is self defeating. Only put the items on your list that you can logically do today. You may however want to make a list of long range goals, if your project will take some time and has many components to it.

Only put the items on your list that you can logically do today

6. You may think that you will feel more like starting the project tomorrow. You probably won't and remember every tomorrow becomes a today at some point.
7. Break the task or project into smaller sections. Each section you complete will make you feel productive and encourage you to go to the next part. And... you can cross something off of your list.
8. Storytellers tell us "to eat a live toad first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day". If you take care of an unpleasant task early it will not be hanging over your head and you can move on.

9. Deadlines can create a wave of fear. However, the procrastinator would never get anything done without them. Think of it as a challenge and reward yourself when you meet it. Chocolate is always good!

10. Procrastinators quite often say they work better under pressure. And that is why they leave everything until the last minute. Maybe so, but I say, if that is true then why not give yourself imaginary deadlines? The trouble is that we would know that they are imaginary and still ignore them. If you had a co-worker set the deadlines that might work.

If none of these suggestions appeal or apply to you and you are happy the way things are, then enjoy it. Don't stress or worry about other people's description of you or your work habits. I am a perpetual procrastinator by habit and new habits are needed but they will take time and commitment.

I guess I will think about that tomorrow.

Hints from Helen is a regular series of articles from Helen Kimsey, Executive Secretary

Calendar of Events

TCEA Annual Conference, Corpus Christi.....April 19-22, 2009