

12th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
TSHL General Session
September 14-17, 2009
The Ambassador Hotel, Amarillo, TX

MINUTES

Registration opened at 8:00 AM on Monday, September 14, in the Atrium, followed by breakfast and the Executive Committee meeting. Later in the morning, the Administrative Committees met.

Following lunch, the Legislative Issues Committees met, followed by Technology Training for LIC chairs and reporters. In addition, Recruitment Training, led by Al Campbell and Alan Abraham was followed by an Advocacy training session led by Steve Coycault. Ted Hubert led a training session concerning the History and Purpose of TSHL, followed by a talk by Sharon Miner.

Dinner was furnished, along with transportation, by Park Place Towers. The TSHL Officers met after we returned from the dinner.

Tuesday, September 15, opened with a breakfast followed by the Opening of the General Session. The colors were posted by the color guard from Caprock High School. The National Anthem was led by Dan Baker, Music Minister from First Baptist Church, Amarillo. The pledges to the US and Texas flags were spoken and an invocation was given. Guests were introduced by Speaker Graham, and a special welcome was given by Amarillo Mayor and TML President Debra McCartt. Special guests were Melissa Carter, AAA Executive Director, and John Smithee, Texas Representative. New TSHL members Bettye Green of Tahoka, (South Plains District), Larry Day of Amarillo (Panhandle District), and Jerry Stamps of Lubbock (South Plains District) were introduced.

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

The Speaker then explained the purpose of the General Session and the General Session rules and agenda were approved. After a short break, the session reconvened to consider Proposed Amendments. The two Proposed Amendments pertaining to the Policy and Procedures Handbook were approved after one friendly amendment. Consideration of Proposed Amendments pertaining to the Election and Credentials Handbook was next. The Proposed Amendments No. 3 and 3a were held pending the results of the Bylaws Proposed Amendments as that would have a direct effect on these two proposals. Proposed Amendments 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 were approved. The meeting recessed until September 16 to allow for training sessions after lunch.

Training Sessions were held in the afternoon:

1. Resolutions Writing training led by Carlos Higgins
2. How to Use Texas Legislature Online website led by Oscar Garcia
3. A Matter of Balance led by Stacey Urbanczrk
4. National Video Interviewing project led by Oscar Garcia, Ed Dylla, and Sandy Graham, and
5. Preparing for the 2010 Census led by Kayce Carter, Bureau of the Census.

Transportation to Childers Place was furnished and a dinner was provided. Speaker Dr. Richard Jordan informed us of many aspects of Alzheimer's' and the continuing efforts to identify and treat this devastating disease.

Wednesday morning, September 16, after breakfast, the Session continued. It was called to order by Speaker Graham and the National Anthem was led by Reggie Fowler, Music Minister, First Christian Church. The Pledge to the US and Texas flags was led by Charlyne Elliot and the invocation was given by Lynn Crisp.

Speaker Graham acknowledged the work of the Panhandle TSHL Group in putting together this meeting.

Betty Trotter announced that if there were no rain, the bus would pick up at 5:00 PM those who planned to go to Palo Duro Canyon this evening.

Homer Lear announced that he is the contact for acquiring TSHL pins, and that there are two kinds, one for men and one for women. He also noted that some members were having two of the smaller pins made into earrings. He also announced that there are some vacancies in the Texas Delegation to the National Silver Haired Congress and invited those who are interested to submit dues to Pat Porter, Treasurer for NSHC. In addition, he announced that the Legislative Committee on Aging, our No. 1 priority, has been established and will have its first meeting on April 1.

Lila Millican, editor of the Silver Bulletin, requested that information on major meetings be submitted to her for publication, along with information on any awards that TSHL members may have received in their districts.

The Communication Committee will prepare a Press Release for TSHL members to use in their local newspapers.

Speaker Graham recognized the many sponsors of this meeting including Diana Corona and her associates from the Texas Senior Corps who sponsored our breakfast on Monday morning, and assisted in registration; Southwest Airlines, who furnished two round-trip tickets to be raffled off to TSHL members as a fundraising event; Ben E. Keith Co. who furnished all paper supplies in Hospitality Room along with vegetable and fruit trays, cookies, cakes, and crackers; Sam's Club who provided \$25.00 worth of additional supplies for the Hospitality Room; Park Central-Park Place Towers who furnished transportation, dinner and entertainment on Monday night; and Childers Place who furnished transportation and dinner with an outstanding speaker on Tuesday night.

More of the Proposed Amendments were then considered until a recess at lunch time. Training programs held in the afternoon were:

- Technology training for all
- Effective Communications, Presley Donaldson
- Leadership Attributes, LeeRoy Kiesling
- Identifying Training Needs in TSHL, Jane Blay
- FAQs re TSHL 101, Chris Kyker
- Learning the Pledge to the Texas flag, Linda Parrish

The bus to Palo Duro Canyon arrived and many members attended this trip to the canyon. A box supper was provided and eaten in the canyon.

Thursday, September 17, opened with a continental breakfast. The Session was re-convened by the Speaker with a call to order. The National Anthem was led by Darrell Bledsoe, Music Minister of the Church of Christ of the Colonies. The pledges to the US and Texas flags were spoken and the invocation was heard. The TSHL Foundation financial report was presented by Speaker Graham

A Memorial Service recognizing members who have passed away since the last General Session was led by Liz Whiteside who dedicated it to former member Naomi Norton. Various members spoke in remembrance of the deceased. Those members that were recognized by name and a bell toll by Oscar Garcia were:

Nancy Foster
J D Kahler
Jim Cowgill
Robert Hamilton

Max Kennison
Poppy Hulsey, and
Jean McCloud.

Following this Memorial service, reports were heard from various Legislative Issues, Administrative, and the Legislative Action Committees. Topics of interest were discussion concerning the E&C report

requesting that the officials holding the election of TSHL officers be sworn to secrecy and not allowed to give out the vote count for candidates after the count has been made. After considerable discussion pro and con, there was a motion passed to hold a decision on accepting this report in abeyance for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting in December.

A motion to accept the other reports was made by Burt Greenfield and they were accepted.

Reports from the Officers included a request from Oscar Garcia to continue study of the resolution process to improve it. Al Campbell noted that the tax freeze election would be held in Gray Co. in November.

An evaluation sheet was furnished for the membership to express their opinion on the registration process, the hotel accommodations, and the food selections. Results will be announced at the Executive Committee meeting in December.

Keith Campbell won the award for traveling the longest distance to attend (681 miles from Rockport) and Burt Greenfield was second (645 miles from Katy).

The drawings for the Southwest Airlines tickets were won by Jerry Pybus and Katy Kappel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat J. Porter, Secretary

Addendum (added for Website)

Action on Amendments:

BYLAWS

1. Eligibility for elected or appointed members shall be 60 years or older prior to filing for election. Passed.
2. Transitional provision to extend current terms to 2011. Passed
3. Relating to Ethics, Code of Behavior, and expulsion from TSHL. Passed
4. Campaign guidelines for TSHL officers. Passed
5. Term of office extended one year during transition period. Passed
6. Meetings during election cycle change. Passed
7. Designation the place of TSHL sessions. Passed
8. Verification of electronic signatures. Passed
9. Filing proposed amendments. Passed

ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS MANUAL

1. Eligibility for elected or appointed members shall be 60 years or older prior to filing for election. Passed.
2. Rescind candidate petition (Form 105) and raise filing fee to \$50.00. Failed
3. Appeal of a decision by the executive committee to expel a TSHL member. Passed
4. Only one poll water per candidate. Passed
5. If only one candidate remains for a position by reason of withdrawal, disqualification or otherwise, that candidate shall be deemed elected and votes for that candidate need not be counted. Passed.
6. If only one candidate remains, not necessary to count votes. Passed

7. If only one candidate, then the vote may be by voice. Passed
8. Dates of Election Dates and Election Cycle. Passed

POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

1. Committee to appoint members to legislative issues committees. Passed
2. Speaker to approve statewide media releases prepared by Communications Committee. Passed