



TSHL Resolutions: Covering the 360° Spectrum

SILVER BULLETIN 18TH TSHL 2Q2020

FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

In mid-March, we made the decision to postpone our May Legislative Session with the hope that we can convene July 26-31 to carry out our important work. My heartfelt thanks to those who have been working so diligently to develop resolutions. Once the PRRP has completed its review, your LIC Chairs will be contacting you in regard to Resolutions that have been assigned to your committee.

To stay fully informed on all aspects of TSHL, please take time to carefully read this Silver Bulletin and watch for emails and posts in the TSHL Lounge. We are grateful that we have technologies that will allow us to continue working together and to stay in contact with our state representatives and senators.

As we continue to represent and work for older Texans, we do not have time to panic or lament or be afraid. Do all you can to stay healthy and lead by being patient and good to yourself and others.

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

www.txshl.org

You will recall that we discussed the 360° approach to addressing the issues of senior Texans at our TSHL Orientation and Training Sessions. This means that we look at all dimensions of being an older Texan – issues of safety, security, healthcare, financial matters, elder abuse, housing, and often just plain dignity. Once again, the TSHL has covered the wide range of issues relevant to our older population very well with resolutions proposed for the 18th TSHL legislative session.

The Proposed Resolution Review Panel (PRRP) has received and assigned tracking numbers for over 70 proposed resolutions. Many TSHL members have signed these either as an author or coauthor, with a number of members active on multiple resolutions. These TSHL members have demonstrated both how to work independently and as a team. Good work, TSHL colleagues!

A sampling of the breadth of resolutions includes proposals on: home-delivered meal funding, increasing the Medicaid nursing home personal needs allowance (PNA), stronger laws to protect seniors from gang activity, staffing and training requirements for those working with Alzheimer's and Dementia patients, use of medical cannabis for additional medical conditions, prevention of senior financial abuse, strengthening public sector retiree pension and healthcare programs, funding for the Older Blind Independent Living Program, safe and affordable housing for older LGBT residents, addressing senior rural safety and health through Emergency Service District legislation, establishing full practice authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), increasing elder care living options, addressing oral health care for seniors in long-term care facilities, continuing Ed/Training for 60+ year-old population in the workforce, Geriatric training for practitioners, funding for the TX Lifespan Respite Care Program, adding Tele-dentistry to TX Telemedicine law, Medicaid expansion in TX, increased use of telemedicine, housing for homeless senior veterans, improving senior transportation options, use of FBI background checks for LVNs and aides performing long term care services, and many more.

To those authors and coauthors submitting resolutions, “THANK YOU” for keeping the TSHL mission of serving our older population alive and well. Our Texas seniors will know that WE CARE!

-Scott Christensen, Chair
Legislative Action Committee

What you can do now:

- ✓ If you optimistically made a reservation at the Austin Wyndham for our May session, please call and cancel it
- ✓ Touch base with your representative(s) and/or senator(s)
 - Thank them for the work they did this past session in behalf of older Texans;
 - Ask them if there are issues related to older Texans that they would like TSHL to help them explore or research;
 - Tell them what you are working on for the upcoming session (make certain you don't leave the impression that any resolution has already been passed by TSHL).
- ✓ Check your email frequently! Your LIC Chairs will be reaching out to you to schedule a teleconference or ZOOM meeting to discuss the Resolutions your committee has been assigned.
- ✓ Write an article about TSHL for your local paper. They are looking for "special interest" stories to fill their pages since they can't report on sports or cultural performances!
- ✓ Reach out to potential new members, especially if your AAA is under-represented in TSHL.
- ✓ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JULY 26-31 – THESE ARE THE TARGETED DATES FOR OUR LEGISLATIVE SESSION!**



Speaker, Rhonda Rogers, Paris
Speaker Pro-Tem, Sherry Hubbard, Junction
Deputy Speaker Pro-Tem, Barbara Aydlett, Aquilla
Secretary, Vacant
Comptroller, Barbie Butler-Johnson, Hearne

Committee Changes:

As previously announced in emails, we have several new Committee Chairs and a change in the structure of one committee:

Criminal Justice is now chaired by

Johnny Waldrip of Burleson

State Affairs and Insurance have been combined (*for this session only*) and the committee is chaired by:

Mike Sandoval of Kingsland

Human Services is now chaired by:

Lynda Mitchell of Tehuacana

Rural-Urban is now chaired by:

Sharon Brazeal of Van Alstyne

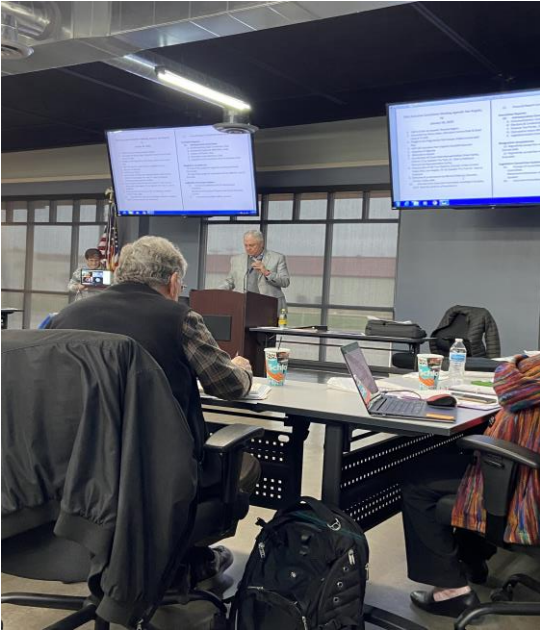
The **Silver-Bulletin** Editor is now:

Linda Timmerman of Streetman

We have a vacancy for the **Office of Secretary**. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please let Speaker Rogers know. Also, please send a completed Form 204 to Mike Meier, Elections & Credentials Chair. The duties of this important office are outlined on page 8 of your *TSHL Official Documents Manual*. We will elect a new Secretary for TSHL at our next Executive Committee meeting pursuant to Article V, Section 4, of our By-Laws.

TSHL WEBSITE UPDATE!

With thanks to the TSHL Foundation, we are working with a professional Marketing Coach to re-design our Website and related branding materials for our organization. Marlene Cohen, Chair of our Technology Committee, and Pat Porter, Finance Chair and "keeper-of-all-things-TSHL-on-our-current-website," are working closely with our coach. Hopefully, we will have a prototype to review soon!



KUDOS to our Speaker Pro-Tem, Sherry Hubbard, and the **Concho Valley AAA** for hosting our Executive Board meeting on January 30. We had a productive meeting and a wonderful visit to the lovely city of San Angelo!

Pictured left: Texas State Representative Drew Darby addresses attendees of the TSHL Executive Board in San Angelo.

Senior Expo/Exhibit/Town Hall in Abilene on February 20



Right: Speaker Emeritus Walter Graham listens intently to the message delivered by State Representative Stan Lambert.

Thanks to the sponsors and organizers for making the Senior Expo/Exhibit/Town Hall event in Abilene a success!





**WE ARE
READY TO
JAM!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Thanks to the **Perry & Ruby Steven's Charitable Foundation** for providing funding for TSHL to purchase this new sound system. And special thanks to Speaker Pro-tem, **Sherry Hubbard**, for writing the grant. "We will save a great deal of money because we will not have to rent sound equipment from the hotel for our future meetings," said Speaker Rogers, "so we are grateful to Sherry for her work for our organization." **Paul Stempko** is "housing" the system for TSHL and has graciously agreed to transport it to future meetings.

WELCOME

Please help welcome our newest members:

Patricia Harkins – Harris County – patti_harkins@hotmail.com

Presley Donaldson – McLennan County – pwdonal@sbcglobal.net