

TSHL Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2011
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, Texas
Executive Learning Center
1:00-4:00 PM

The TSHL Executive Committee meeting was held Friday, September 30, 2011, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin, TX. The meeting was called to order by Speaker Walter Graham, and the invocation was led by Arnold Oliver. The pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags were led by Billie Erwin, Operations Committee Chair.

Guests were introduced including Lu Russell, Parliamentarian; Consuela Contreras, Dr. John Wilson, Advisory Council, Dallas Co., and Homer Lear. Chris Kyker, TSHL Foundation Treasurer, was in attendance. The roll was called by Secretary Porter with a quorum in attendance. The agenda, upon vote, was adopted.

Minutes from the July 14 meeting were presented by Secretary Porter and, upon vote, were accepted as presented.

Items H, I, and J. TSHL Foundation President Jim Hine is out of state, so no report was heard. Foundation Treasurer Chris Kyker presented the financial report. ATTACHMENT A The financial report from Comptroller Davis was heard, ATTACHMENT B. All funds had been forwarded to the Foundation at the end of the prior Comptroller's service. With a \$1,000.00 deposit transferred from the Foundation, Mr. Davis reported that two checks have been written since the end of August, where the bank statement ends.

Item K. Reports from Administrative Committees.

Rudy Cantu reported on Finance Committee action. Resolution 13 is under advisement.

Operations Chair Billie Erwin reported that she had met with the hotel to see the best dates for our March meeting. Original date was early March, but due to the March primary elections, a move was suggested to March 25. Then we were notified that Texas Retired Teachers Annual meeting would be in conflict with that set of dates. After considerable discussion and the notice that several of our members are officers in the State Teacher's Association and many are members who would have conflicts, it was moved to change the meeting to April 1-5. Upon vote, this motion was approved. The hotel will be so advised.

LAC Chair Carlos Higgins reported that the Texas Medical Association is interested in working with us. Troy Alexander is their Legislative liaison. They have volunteered to provide expertise to address health care issues during our legislative session or during committee meetings. The Texas Employee retirement system is changing to Humana, lowers \$, same Medicare, and offers extra benefits. Need to see more information on this.

Elections & Credentials Committee Chair Linda Parrish reported the addition of two new TSHL members after Orientation. ATTACHMENT C.

Item L: Reports from Legislative Issues Committees:

Criminal Justice committee Chair Liz Whiteside has forwarded prior resolutions to committee members for study during the interim. Other reports were heard from committee members.

No report from A. G. "Pete" Hinojosa, Sr., Education Committee Chair, and Sandy Graham, chair of Health and Human Resources Committee.

Human Services Committee Chair Chris Kyker reported on a conference call and will be having conference calls about every two months. Each member is following information on interim studies. Kyker is monitoring HB 4154 from 81st Session (Volunteer Advocate Program for the Elderly) re monitoring boarding homes with less than 4 people. Will have another conference

call on November 30 and recommends use of conference calls for committees. Speaker Graham reiterated the access thru Susan Merrick, AT&T.

Insurance Committee Chair, Jureta Marshall, reported that this committee has 5 categories to study: Auto, homeowners, comprehensive, long term care, and dental. She indicates an urgent need for oral/dental care to address needs for seniors.

Retirement & Aging Committee: no report.

Rural – Urban Committee: no report

State Affairs Committee Vice Chair Oliver reported that the committee has reviewed last sessions' resolutions and discussed with Al Campbell certain items for clarification and suggestions for new resolutions.

Utilities & Natural Resources Committee Chair Dr. Bob Fitzgerald reports a pressing need for water quality and quantity. Many members are reporting the same issue. Water is finite quantity, recycled, but no "new" water. Texas population in next 50 years is going to require increase of 30% increase, more reservoirs, more pipelines, etc. Committee members are attending local ground water district meetings, and will share on conference call. All input is appreciated and must address needs statewide. Buying water now is more expensive than gasoline and with lower supply, will increase in cost. Industry and recreation depend on it as well as individual usage.

Results from the Evaluations submitted after the Orientation Session were presented by Linda Parrish, former Training Committee Chair. Attachment D

Item M. Betty Streckfuss commented on water conservation measures that her family has been using for many years and reminded us to read Rachel Carson's book, Silent Spring. She then addressed Town Hall meetings which will be held in the Houston area in October. She suggested that we contact Community Colleges to offer to address adult education classes re water issues. Her favorite topics for resolutions are: geriatric education and senior health care including self-neglect. She wrote an article about the Independent Payment Advisory Board. Many questions were asked of her, and the article was rebutted by a local bioethicist. John Giovannini was drawn into this issue and he, Betty and others will be involved in a debate re the bioethics of aging. Town Hall meetings need to be reported and Chris Kyker has that information; i.e. forms, etc. There is a small amount of money still available to sponsor, along with a set of guidelines that is based on prior experience. Betty Trotter noted that she has mini-town hall meetings with the residents of her long term care facility and suggested that we all participate in spreading the word about what TSHL is all about. Bruce Davis reported that we have been asked to have another Town Hall meeting at the next TCOA (Texas Conference on Aging) meeting which will be held in South Padre Island, May 6-9, 2012. Funding for the luncheon at the earlier Town Hall was provided by a sponsor at the Kerrville meeting, but those funds may not be available. We will need to find a sponsor or funding in order to fund the lunch.

Item N. Deputy Speaker Pro Tem Al Campbell has two items to discuss:

1. TSHL merchandise includes coats, caps, medallions, watches, pens, flashlights, golf shirts, ties, mugs, and throws. He advised that a catalog was planned, but several issues came up including too many vendors with quality control issues and minimum orders. He will continue to see if a catalog can be developed in the future. Mannon modeled a jacket, and a summer cap with the mesh back. Mr. Campbell and Liz Whiteside are working on developing additional products. Mugs are available for sale at this meeting for \$5.00. They hope to have further information by the December meeting. Liz Whiteside advised that the caps are ordered and should be in stock soon with sewn patches rather than stamped.

2. Resolution 13 information relating to establishing a central office with an Executive Director with funding was presented. Resolution 13 and the Strategic Plan both relate to this item, and Mr. Campbell is very in favor of moving in that direction. He stated that further action is the prerogative of the Finance Committee. A dissenting opinion from Alan Abraham was distributed. Mr. Campbell feels this is the time to address this need.

Speaker Graham then opened the floor for discussion. Homer Lear commented on R13 from State Affairs Committee at last Legislative Session, but expressed caution about this idea. Several years ago, this idea was discussed with Texas Legislators and they asked about the type of funding available at that time. He reminded us that the MOU between TSHL and TSHLF and reminded us that it would require getting a 501(c)(3). He noted that the Florida Silver Haired Legislature (FL SHL) had followed a similar plan and gotten funding from the state of Florida, but there has been so much dissention between the members of the FL SHL that the FL SHL has now dissolved. California has also been funded by certain options in the state, and has had problems within their Silver Haired Legislature (CA SHL). Carlos Higgins states we can always use more money which would allow a great variety of people to join this organization, but is aware of the problems with the FL and CA SHL with their state funding. He hesitated to ask the state for money with their budget problems, and feels that the Foundation would be the best vehicle to ask without asking for legislative action. He does not want us to be subject to discussion about our financing. He feels we have done an admirable job without state funding for 25+ years and feel we can continue. Mr. Higgins reminded us that the Foundation has been active in approaching the State Legislature in earlier sessions. John Giovannini has been involved in other organizations to assist with advocacy. He suggests that there is another option – organizations that provide certain levels of advocacy to organizations like ours. Contractors can assist with the technology and secretarial duties, as well as Operations duties, so we can do what we do best which is listen to our peers and advocate for our constituents. Mr. Campbell stated that R13 was only asking for interest from already funded items, not new budget items. Sandy Graham reminds us that we need to be able to replace ourselves in various positions so as to keep continuity. She mentioned that, on the Austin utility bills, there are options to contribute to various charities, etc. Arnold Oliver, as a new member, stated that he had no institutional history, but first thoughts, as past head of a state agency, he had to deal with the Legislature and told us “ Don’t trust the legislature.” What they can give, they can also take away. If we were able to get a pittance, somewhere along the line, that can be withdrawn. He reminded us of the fine line between lobbying and advocacy. Chris Kyker noted that this is an old discussion and spoke on behalf of the Foundation, reminding TSHL of the planned endowment. She suggested that we as TSHL members continue to support the Foundation planning and fundraising. Speaker Graham commented that there is a mechanism (the Chris Kyker Fund) set up through the Texas Legislature that is awaiting funding, but it is set up to where anyone can apply for the funds including but not limited to TSHL. In addition, does it diminish our role as advocates to be funded by the State? Does it make us beholden to the state legislature? This item is included in the Strategic Plan which we have adopted. Motion made, seconded, and approved to postpone consideration on this matter until an undesignated time in the future.

Item O. Differences between Bylaws, Article IX and Bylaws, Article XII, Amendments. Carlos Higgins was asked to clarify. He explained that a larger number is required to address Bylaws changes and is appropriate unless membership wishes a change. If members are happy with 2/3, they will remain. After considerable discussion and several suggestions, Mr. Higgins asked for suggestions by email. Lu Russell, Parliamentarian, agreed that suggestions can be addressed, but does not see a conflict. Jureta Marshall was recognized and suggested punctuation changes. Dr. Bob Fitzgerald questioned if you can have a meeting without a quorum, and meetings can be held but no action taken. Send all suggestions to Carlos Higgins by email.

Item P. Speaker Graham was authorized at last meeting to establish Special Committees which are listed below and all were approved.

1. Ethics Committee – Alan Abraham, chair
Ted Hubert
Adalaide Balaban

Jim Endicott
Arnold Oliver
Homer Lear

2. Awards Committee - Jane Blay- Chair
Carlos Higgins
Jetta Roberts
Carlton Buesing
3. Technology Committee - Chris Kyker-Chair
Jack Hayward
Linda Parrish
Kenneth Nesmith
Pat Porter-ex officio
4. Training Committee – Delia Oropez-Chair
Presley Donaldson
Cecilia Gutierrez
Jane Blay
Linda Parrish
5. Silver Bulletin – Nancy Byler
6. TSHL On-Line Academy – Bruce Davis

Item Q. Billie Erwin has verified with Wyndham Garden Hotel the dates of April 1-5 for our spring general meeting.

Item R. Speaker's Report:

1. Accepted with regret resignation of Raul Navarro. Betty Streckfuss announced that there is a member who is ready to come on board after this resignation is accepted.
2. Report on Oscar Soliz and gave contact information, 361 813-5364.
3. Discussion about former TSHL members still using TSHL reference. Panhandle members addressed an issue in that area. Another area still has a member using TSHL reference in emails. Carlos Higgins also noted that we do not refer to ourselves as “honorable”; this must come from other people. Suggested P&PH amendment to address this issue. Upon motion made, seconded, and vote, it was approved to have amendment to P&PH.
4. Extension of symphony to Lynn Crisp in the early death of her daughter-in-law, Sybil Farley.
5. Speaker Graham suggests membership in TSAC at the cost of \$75.00 annually since we work closely with them and in affiliation with Senior Day. Motion made, seconded, and discussed. Carlos Higgins asked about if we are a member of TSAC, do we have to follow their positions? Typically, TSAC waits for our resolutions before establishing their position. We ought to stipulate our independent position. A member states that in organizations where she does not agree with a position, she does not work for that position but does not speak against the organization that follows it. Bruce Davis is a Board member of TSAC, elected from the West Texas area. He was asked for definition of organizational and individual membership. Voting is done by Board members on legislative matters. Board members are assigned by region and elect officers. If TSAC adopts an issue that we do not agree with, he does not feel it would be a problem. Homer Lear states that it might be a slippery slope and we have never been a member of other organizations.

Juretta Marshall asks if this is a \$75.00 one-time fee or annually? It was stated it will be an annual fee. Kyker asked if we qualify since we are not a 503(c)(3). Motion was withdrawn by Speaker Graham.

Item 5. Next meeting will be December 2, 2011, at Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, TX beginning at 1:00 PM

Speaker Graham noted that there are supplies including notebooks for all committee chairs and requested that they keep a notebook of their activities to be passed on to an incoming chair at next election. Other paper and supplies are available for all to take home. Single page and booklet on Constitutional issues to be voted on election day, November 8 are available to be picked up and taken home.

Speaker Graham suggested that we need to sell ads for the Directory as soon as possible. Lyn Chambers has sold 7 already. He stated that we need \$500 per EC member.

He then asked Jane Blay to make an Award presentation to Sandy Graham as the Outstanding Freshman for last term.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat J. Porter", is written above a horizontal line.

Pat J. Porter, Secretary

Approved December 2, 2011

TSHL FOUNDATION TREASURER'S REPORT

September 25, 2011

Wells Fargo Accounts	31-Aug-11	25-Sep-11	Variance
Investments	300,282.00	285,237.96	(15,044.04)
Checking	19,373.25	25,990.75	6,617.50
Special (grants)	5,207.28	4,967.88	(239.40)
Total	\$ 324,862.53	\$ 316,196.59	\$ (8,665.94)

Notes

1. TSHL Orientation July 10-14, 2011

TSHL Foundation	35,000.00
Donations	1,100.00
Registration fees	5,145.00
Expenses	(38,210.72)
Net	\$ 3,034.28

2. TSHL Foundation Award Dinner Feb 7, 2011

Sponsors	31,500.00
Outstanding Pledges	1,500.00
Expenses	(20,690.08)
Net	\$ 12,309.92

3. Investment Account and Volatile Market

The TSHLF Board had two conference call meetings during August to discuss the volatile market and consider adding gold to the portfolio. At our request, Frank Netherton, Wells Fargo Advisor, submitted alternatives for consideration. Following individual and board meetings with Frank, the Board decided not to change asset allocation policy or add gold to portfolio, as of Aug 29, 2011.

The Treasurer was requested to continue to send weekly investment updates to the Board and to Speaker Walter Graham and Comptroller Bruce Davis.

Submitted,

Chris Kyker, Treasurer

TSHL Foundation

Sept 25, 2011

TSHL Comptroller's Report

Primary Account: 2511480429
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BBVA Compass

Enclosures 0

Aug 10, 2011 to Aug 31, 2011

017 THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE
 1049 N 3RD ST STE 602

ABILENE TX 79601-5847

Your business is important to us. So let us know if you ever have a question or if we can assist you in any way. We're always happy to hear from you and we're ready to help.

If you have questions about your statement, call Customer Service at 1-800-852-0803.

Business Bto Checking

2511480429

THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Deposit Account Recap

Beginning Balance as of August 10, 2011		.00
1 Deposits	(Plus)	1,000.00
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2011		1,000.00

Deposits and Other Credits

Date	Serial #	Amount	Description
Aug 15		1,000.00	DEPOSIT

Daily Balance Summary

Date	Balance	Date	Balance	Date	Balance
Aug 10	.00	Aug 15	1,000.00		

TSHL Election and Credentials Committee Report

Linda Parrish, Chair

TSHL Executive Committee Meeting

Sept. 30, 2011

As is the regulation the chair of the Elections and Credentials committee is in receipt of "Certification of Election " for C.J. Jim Brisbin and Sandy Graham. These TSHL elected members were sworn into office after the July, 2011 Orientation Session in Austin. We welcome these returning members.

The TSHL E&C committee has been asked, by Speaker Graham, to review the current ***Election and Credentials Manual***, which was last amending September 2009. The chair has accepted that assignment with a goal to have a product for review by Spring, 2012.

Currently members of the TSHL E&C committee are reviewing the document and its sections (Chapter 1-Key Election Component Groups; Chapter 2-The TSHL Election; Chapter 3-TSHL Organizational Elections; Chapter 4-General; Chapter 5-Dates of Election Process and the 23 forms contained in Appendix A & B, as well as Appendices C, D and E). Carlos Higgins, a committee member, has expressed interest in leadership of this effort given his knowledge of this material. His gracious gesture was gratefully accepted. Chair Parrish will work, via email, to form sub-committees (persons assigned to various sections) to work on this endeavor.

Given that only one contested election was held in Summer 2011, the process was expedient, efficient, effective and fair. Thanks to the E&C committee members for their monitoring efforts.

**TSHL Training Committee
Evaluation Results
TSHL Orientation Session
Reported by Linda H. Parrish,
Past Training Committee Chair
Sept. 30, 2011**

The TSHL Training Committee secured seven training presenters/sessions for the Summer Orientation Session held in Austin, Texas on July 14, 2011.

Each session was evaluated by attendees by ranking each session on a scale of 1-5 with 1 representing a not so favorable score and 5 representing a highly favorable score.

The rankings (n = 40) were as follows:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Davis-5 Ss-That's What you Think! | 4.94 |
| 2. Training committee-So you want to be a committee chair? | 4.68 |
| 3. Kyker, et.al.-TSHL 104 | 4.62 |
| 4. Bower- Senior Advocacy | 4.5 |
| 5. Hine- Volunteer Advocacy/HB4154 | 4.26 |
| 6. Ford - Tx. Aging Network/Legislative session | 4.13 |
| 7. Russell - Parliamentary Procedure (Didn't even present due to traffic issues and still 3 people rated her a perfect 5.) | |

Comments included:

1. Laudatory comments such as "no one went to sleep during Bruce Davis session!" "These speakers are excellent."
2. Training was well organized and started and ended on time.
3. Allow more time for orientation of new members.
4. Need preliminary resolution procedures and techniques training.
5. Sessions that involve constituents in identification of aging issues.
6. Seating for sessions (long tables) not conducive for speaker or hearing.
7. Do not use acronyms for a newly elected membership.
8. New members confused about committees and resolutions. Early and longer training needed on the basics.
9. "Outstanding", "very informative", "very helpful"

Our evaluations reflected the positive climate that was evident during the entire session. Bravo!

Although not asked for there were some constructive comments that might assist in overall planning for future sessions, such as:

- I. Training should be in the morning and committee meetings in the p.m.

2. Conduct business at the Capitol in one session. 3 hour breaks are too long.
3. Special diets need to be considered.
4. Water pitchers too heavy to lift and pour.
5. Hospitality room open other than late evening. Have games available.
6. Please change from plated breakfast to buffet breakfast.

The TSHL training committee hopes that this feedback is helpful for future planning.

End of this report and end of minutes