

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2015
Wyndham Garden Hotel, Austin, TX
4:00 PM, Executive Learning Center

TOGETHER
EVERYONE
ACHIEVES
MORE

The meeting was called to order by Speaker Pat Porter. Invocation was led by Claude Andrews. The pledges were led by Jim Hitt.

The guests in attendance were Dolores Garcia, Sharon LaCoste, Robert Pfister, Mary Ruth Lee, LaWynn Rogers, Rhonda Rogers, Larry Yawn, Dona Nussbaum, Bruce Davis, Jim Endicott, Steve Coycault, and Captain Bob Bratcher.

The roll was called by Mari Okabayashi. Quorum was present.

The agenda was adopted.

The minutes for April 21, 2015 were accepted.

The Financial Report was given by Rudy Cantu and was accepted. Please see attachment 1.

The Travel and Expense Policy was discussed. Chris Kyker proposed an amendment to make changes to Form 305. Our policies at this time do not address any expenses for our traveling expenses. Form 308 has been developed to get approval for any travel expenses. Prior approval is needed. Chris has used the State Comptroller's allowed rates for travel and also the per diem expenses for lodging and meals. Texas has some zones where the per diem rates might be higher than the usual rates.

Currently in the budget is \$5000 for travel.

Pat Porter then discussed the Donald Whiteside Grant. Elsie Whiteside's son has pledged \$1000 a month for 12 months for use of TSHL members to help recruit, retain and train.

The Travel and Expense Policy is to address only the budgeted amount at this time. The Whiteside Grant has stipulations about the use of the money and should be addressed separately from the currently budgeted funds.

Carlos Higgins asked about a possible circumstance where an emergency request for an appearance by a TSHL member at the Capitol might preclude receiving prior approval. Chris Kyker state that we are in a discussion phase at this time and will consider changes and additional information.

Pat Porter suggested we study this policy and forms for consideration at our October meeting. Questions and suggestions should be addressed to Rudy Cantu. Discussion was held about determining how to apportion the limited funds that are available. No action was taken.

Reports from Administrative Committees

Al Campbell gave the final Communications report for this session. Al suggested that training is needed for members in the area of public relations. Please see attachment 2.

Don Sanders of Elections and Credentials reported that all the AAA's have participated in authorizing TSHL members except 3. Tonight we will hear from the candidates for state-level offices. The ballots will be prepared for voting Monday afternoon.

The Finance Committee report was given by Don Murphy. Don was chair of the Internal Financial Review committee. He said that Comptroller Rudy Cantu had done an excellent job. Frances Morrow and Larry Yawn were the other members of the Committee. The members met in Corpus Christi and examined the books and records. The records were orderly; however, a few areas of concern were noted. It was suggested that TSHL establish a permanent storage location for financial records. Don Murphy also suggested looking at the attendance of TSHL member of the Executive Committee and noting the number of absences by each member based on current policy. He also mentioned that the general sessions be identified in the budget by legislative or orientation. Don also talked about hospitality expenses and possible liability.

Ted Hubert of the Operations Committee that announcements will be made at tonight's function about what will happen at the Orientation.

The LAC report was given by Carlos Higgins. He thanked Chris Kyker for preparing a comprehensive report about bills considered and passed by the Texas Legislature that relate to resolutions passed by TSHL. Carlos also asked that we think about possibly forming an adjunct group to the LAC for the people in the Austin area who work very hard during the Texas Legislative session by going to the Capitol and advocating for TSHL. No action was taken.

Reports from LIC Committees

Criminal Justice report given by Bill Bailey. Bill Bailey stated that we should communicate with our Texas legislators about our issues at the Capitol and at their district offices. Steve Coycault testified before a committee about gangs. That bill did not progress. Bill reported that a bill relating to guardianship for incapacitated seniors was signed by the governor.

Education report was given by Nancy Byler. Nancy thanked the members for saving the insurance for the retirees.

The Health and Human Resources was given by Barbara Aydlett. Barbara thanked her committee members for their work this term.

Chris Kyker gave the Human Services report. She said that four of their resolutions became law. She thanked everyone for helping to make things happen.

No Insurance report.

The Retirement & Aging report was given by William Carey. William talked about Larry Johnson's

resolution about texting and driving. The bill passed in the House. But the bill failed by one vote to get to the Senate floor.

Rural - Urban report was given by Claude Andrews. Claude gave an update on the I-69 corridor. He said that seniors are being displaced by the expansion. We should make sure that our seniors are not disproportionately being displaced. The committee is working on getting the appropriate SSA and DHHS to report quickly to the Veterans Administration about veteran's income status so that there is minimal delay of veteran's benefits.

State Affairs report was given by Mona Bailey. She thanked her members for their hard work. Carlos Higgins' resolution about medical marijuana was signed into law. Guardianship resolution became law, HB 39 and SB 1881.

Carol Peters reported on Utilities & Natural Resources. Several issues were mentioned in various bills. Those issues were fracking, export of domestic crude oil, incentives for natural gas vehicles, ground water aquifer management, and TCEQ permitting process. Concern exists about the funds set aside to help with meeting the Texas Lower Emission Standard for those in the lower income bracket. The committee is looking at obtaining release of these funds for those who need the funds. And the committee is looking at educating the seniors about this fund.

Reports from Special Committees

No Ethics Review Panel report as there had been no request for action.

Jane Blay gave the Awards Committee report. Nine people are receiving awards and 29 other Silver-Haired Legislators are to receive service awards.

Chris Kyker reported on the Technology Committee and the Online Academy. Both the TSHL website and the OnLine Academy website have been funded by grants. But the grant money will end January, 2016. Chris Kyker recommended that TSHL consolidate the OnLine Academy into the TSHL website and that the website be funded from the general funds of the TSHL. The OnLine Academy would be accessed through a link. By consolidating the Academy with the TSHL there would be only one website to maintain and fund.

Chris Kyker moved that we consolidate the OnLine Academy website, www.tshlacademy.org, with the TSHL website, www.txshl.org, no later than October and offer self-study courses with no tuition costs. The motion was seconded and passed after some discussion.

Chris Kyker moved to approve funding for the website from the TSHL financial resources effective January 1, 2016. The motion was seconded. Chris stated the cost may be about \$2000 as the website is redesigned. The motion passed.

Chris reminded the LIC chairs to turn in their computers to Ted Hubert. These computers will be checked and updated as needed and then will be issued to the new LIC committee chairs in October.

Tonight Chris will have a Technology Committee meeting to discuss various topics, such as the actual design, activating the biography section of the website, etc.

Chris suggested all members should use consistent email addresses.

An editor for the Silver Bulletin will be chosen soon.

Pat Porter gave the report for Documents Review for the chair Gerald Nichols. The Official Documents volume for 2015-2017 has been printed with a light blue cover to help distinguish it from the TSHL Legislative Report.

Speaker's Report:

Pat Porter assigned Betty Streckfuss, Louise Butler, and Kip Legler to present some guidelines about consent resolutions at the October meeting.

Discussion held regarding consistency on TSHL business cards and letterhead. Chris Kyker suggested that Communication Committee take on this task and to do so quickly.

Betty Streckfuss discussed the AiTC on July 29-31, 2015. Volunteers from TSHL are Kip Legler, Barbara Aydlett, Rhonda Rogers, Mary Pat Smith, Nancy O. Hardin, Larry Johnson, Louise Butler, Polo LaCoste, Steve Coycault, and Steve Wilson.

Pat Porter briefly asked our members to consider contacting their senators on a personal level about support for the Corporation for National and Community Services in response to a request from Lynda Ender of the Senior Source in Dallas.

Discussion about LAC appeals and archives and the Foundation will be held later.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mari Okabayashi,
Secretary

Approved October 25, 2015

Announcements:

2015 dates for EC Meetings and Orientation Session*

15 th TSHL Executive Committee Meeting	July 12, 2015	Austin, TX
16 th TSHL Orientation Session	July 12-16, 2015	Austin, TX
16 th TSHL Executive Committee Meeting	October 25, 2015	Austin, TX
16 th TSHL Training Session	October 25-28, 2015	Austin, TX

*Meetings subject to change in date and place

TSHL Comptroller Quarterly Report to
 TSHL Foundation Board
 2nd Quarter
 2015

Balance at beginning of period	\$ 1,713.13
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Deposits: No deposits to date

Date	Check#	Source of Funds	Amount	Balance	Comment
Total			0		

Expenditures: No expenditures to date

Date	Check #	Payable to:	Amount	Balance	Budget line item
Total			0		

Balance at end of period	\$1,713.13
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I certify that the income and expenditures are correct and complete and that I have documentation on file to support all financial records pertaining to this report, including monthly financial statements from Kleberg Bank, Corpus Christi

Name & location of Bank

// Rodolfo "Rudy" Cantu //
 Rodolfo "Rudy Cantu", TSHL Comptroller
 6609 Canyon Creek Drive
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

June 23, 2015
 Date