



## THIS MONTH WITH THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS

Volume 24 | Episode 3

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### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This year is flying by so fast and there is so much going on with your association (TAEA).

Your board and fellow members have been working diligently to interview and hire a new Executive Director. The process was completed by a 5-panel interview committee of association members who narrowed the field down to two finalists. Those finalists were interviewed by the Board Officers and a selection was made. We are pleased to announce the position has been offered to Chris McGinn. Chris is not a new name in the world of elections. Many of you know him as the instructor for the REO classes held during mid-winter conferences. He's accepted the role and will start in the coming weeks. We are so excited to welcome Chris aboard and look forward to working with him in this new role. As the Board begins the plan the 2025 Mid-Winter Conference in South Padre Island, Chris will begin to take over some of the planning and organization. Chris will be officially introduced to the membership at the August business meeting during the Annual Law Conference.

In early April we had the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TAC Election Academy. As in the past, it was a huge success. We had over 200 participants in this year virtual academy. Next year the Academy will be in person at the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Convention Center on 3/31/25 thru 4/1/25. So, mark your calendars for this exciting event.

The TAEA Legislative Committee is already meeting to discuss the interim charges as released by the Senate for the 2025 Legislative Session. Elections appear to be a priority for the Lt Governor, who wants to focus on countywide polling. There was a bill on this last session that passed in the senate. I am working on a survey to send to my jurisdictions and organizations to demonstrate the support this program has received since implementation in Hays County. I'm encouraging all of you who participate to gather as much information as possible from your voters ahead of the commencement of the legislative session.

Regional meeting have been ongoing. Region 5 had one here in Hays County last week focused on Emergency planning and preparedness. Thank you, Devante, for an awesome meeting and for outstanding leadership of our group.

Finally, if you are a Votec customer and you are considering going on the TEAM system, please let Kristi Hart know as soon as possible. She needs to know who wants to complete that conversion by the end of the year as soon as possible. She may be reached at [khart@sos.texas.gov](mailto:khart@sos.texas.gov).

Wishing you all luck with your local elections next week and your Primary Runoffs at the end of May!



Shannon Lackey,  
Vice President  
shannon.lackey@randallcounty.gov

#### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT

We are pleased to announce more exciting news! In addition to hiring an Executive Director, the grant that we received provides educational opportunities for TAEA members. Have you considered becoming a CERA graduate? Now is the time! Classes are **FREE** of charge for the rest of 2024 including online classes.

#### Eligibility requirements:

- Must be a current TAEA member.
- Must be an Election Center member.

It's that simple! You can become an Election Center member by visiting [www.electioncenter.org](http://www.electioncenter.org) and go to the MEMBERSHIP tab. The membership is annual.

The cost of each CERA class is \$459.00 so this is a huge savings to your county. Enter the promo code **TAEA** at checkout and there will be no charge for the class.

There will be additional opportunities for CERA and REO classes next year as well. So why not get started now?

I want to thank the Hiring Committee for their time, willingness to participate and insight into the position of Executive Director for TAEA.

Remi Garza, Cameron County EA  
Lisa Wise, El Paso County EA  
Roxzine Stinson, Lubbock County EA  
Andrea Wilson, Llano County EA

The Board appreciates you all!

Best of luck to each and every one of you that will be conducting elections in the coming weeks.

Happy Spring!



Lisa Hayes, Treasurer  
lisa.hayes@co.guadalupe.tx.us

#### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

Out of office....

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#### JOB OPPORTUNITIES



**TEAMWORK**  
BECAUSE WE SOMETIMES MAY NEED A HAND

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#### STAY INFORMED

[Membership Information](#) –  
[New Membership Form](#)

[Education](#)  
[Resources](#)

Election Line



Kristin Miles, Secretary  
elections@co.bastrop.tx.us

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Best wishes for a successful election!



Trudy Hancock,  
Legislative Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LEGISLATIVE CHAIR



John Oldham,  
Educational Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDUCATIONAL CHAIR



EDUCATION  
REO PROGRAM  
CERA CERTIFICATION

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REGIONAL GROUP INFORMATION

**Region 3** - Wow, so much has been going on for everyone. It would be great if we could meet and share information but who has time? We knew this year was going to be a challenge and I suspect everyone is feeling that it has been.

I admire all of the people that work on elections and how easy some of you make this job look. I do not know how the folks that made the presentations at the TAC Election Academy were able to work that into their schedule nor do I know how Crickett has time to get this newsletter together. We owe them all a big thank you for helping all of us with their information and for giving of their time.

As a region, we have not been able to meet but our county has hosted a few events and everyone from our region was invited to attend, either in person or via computer. A couple of the counties in our region hosted CISA (Cybersecurity xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx). Several representatives from that organization provided information about services that CISA offers FOR FREE! I really hope that in our "down time" during the summer, we are able to have them make presentations to our group in order for us to be better prepared as we move into November.

My county, Tom Green, hosted a demo from an electronic pollbook vendor this week. As a county affected by recent events, I am grateful for other counties and the willingness of everyone to share information.

The Secretary of State (SOS) has been hosting webinars with some great information. I hope everyone has an opportunity to know when those webinars are scheduled and can have a chance to tune in. The presentations are recorded and posted on their website so if you miss the webinar itself, you can watch it at a later date.

Good luck to all of you as we continue to work our way through the elections. Make plans to find something relaxing to do whenever you can.

Vona

P. S. For those of you that have time on your hands, here is an Election puzzle. See if you can find words related to elections and/or phrases that we are probably saying these days.

M P R O G R A M  
A T R E  
I E L E C T I O N G R  
B A L L O T S O O I E  
O T M F O R S C  
G M R T R  
I A U G E U  
S H A R E N A T R A I N  
N C P I R  
D O N E A L L Z  
A T E  
C S U M M E R  
C E  
U T H A N K  
F O R Y D  
A E V E R Y O N E  
C T  
Y

Vona Hudson, Region 3 Director

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