



# Texas Association for Literacy Education

Spring 2017

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## President's Message

The 2017 conference held in February at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi was a success. Thank you to all who presented and attended! We had over 300 in attendance throughout the 2 days, including 146 presenters, 102 undergraduate or graduate students, and 11 sponsors. There were also 20 invited guests who attended, including our advocacy award winner, Judge Joe (see p. 5), our keynote speakers and authors, the TAMUCC College of Education and Human Development Interim Dean, Dr. Karen McCaleb, and the research poster judges. We look forward to seeing you all in Canyon next year at West Texas A&M University. More information about the 2018 conference is on the final page of the newsletter. Begin inviting colleagues, friends, and anyone you know who is interested in literacy education in Texas now!

We would like to thank Mary LaFleur and Karen Sykes for their service and commitment as members of the TALE Board of Directors these past three years. They have both helped with initiatives that have benefitted TALE greatly as leaders of their committees. Dr. LaFleur has been Director of Community Involvement and will continue to be a presence on that committee as it serves TALE. Dr. Sykes has been a Co-Director of Membership Development and will continue to serve on the Communications committee as our Social Media Coordinator.

This will also be my final newsletter address as President. I will turn over the job to Laurie Sharp on July 1. I have been extremely honored to be a part of this organization and watch it grow over the past three years. I will continue to serve on the Executive Board in the role of Past-President for the next year and am excited to see even more literacy advocacy, educator empowerment, community involvement, and membership growth. TALE can have a strong presence and its members a powerful voice in Texas for literacy education if we all continue to work together!

Thank you for a fabulous year as President full of many great friends and memories made!

Robin D. Johnson, Ed.D.

# It is TALE Election Time.

Please complete the Google Form at the link included if you have not voted already. You will find five candidates--their names, backgrounds, and visions for TALE--before a section where you can choose two for TALE Board. You will then find one name, background, and TALE vision before a space to elect a TALE Vice President. The election will close May 26th.

<https://goo.gl/forms/QJ7RGZAGKgLcdnAw2>

## Call for TALE Newsletter Editor

The TALE Newsletter is in search of a new editor. The newsletter publication includes, but it not limited to, book reviews, technology pieces, and innovative literacy teaching pieces published in the spring, summer, and fall of each year.

Those interested in the editorial position should send their resume/vita, experience with writing or newsletters, and a brief statement about why they want to be the editor of the TALE Newsletter to the communications director, Alida Hudson, at [alida.hudson13@gmail.com](mailto:alida.hudson13@gmail.com).



Thank you to the TAMUCC Student Reading Council for all of their hard work to make the conference successful!

# Call for TALE Treasurer

TALE is accepting applications for the position of treasurer. The treasurer is a voting member of the executive committee and is appointed for a two-year term. The Treasurer then proceeds to Past-Treasurer for one year. **It is a three-year commitment.** The TALE Treasurer needs to have a willingness to serve, strong written communication skills, strong organizational skills, willingness to use/learn new technologies for record management, and commitment to timeliness. In addition to attendance at all Executive Committee meetings and Board Meetings, the current duties of the treasurer are as follows:

- Maintain accurate and up-to-date financial records.
- Create and deliver a monthly report during board meetings.
- Supervise the management of all committee funds.
- Obtain legal insurance related to financial authority.
- Cooperate fully with an annual audit.
- Manage all financial aspects of the yearly conference.
- The outgoing treasurer will mentor the new treasurer for one year.

If you have qualifications and experience (or willingness to learn) to serve the membership of TALE and assume these responsibilities, please complete the application below and return with your resume or curriculum vitae to [talemembership@gmail.com](mailto:talemembership@gmail.com) with the subject line: Treasurer Application 2017-2018 by June 1, 2017.

Please complete the following information:

## **TALE Treasurer Application**

- Name:
- Phone number:
- Mailing Address:
- Affiliation:
- All preferred emails:
- Years as TALE member:
- Identify your goals for TALE:
- Experiences or personality traits that demonstrate your qualifications for this job

Please attach your curriculum vitae with two current references.

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## TALE Advocacy

### Texas Education Agency Updates

Mike Morath was unanimously confirmed by the Texas Senate (85th Legislature) as Commissioner of Education. He was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott in December 2015 and took office in January 2016.

In Feb., Commissioner Mike Morath announced the official launch of #IAmTXEd, a new social media campaign to share the success stories of Texas teachers in the classroom.

The campaign seeks the stories of educators who:

- Provide rigorous and rewarding academic experiences;
- Play critical roles in students' lives;
- Drive student achievement;
- Love learning and personal growth; and/or
- Exhibit instances of going above and beyond to provide meaningful learning experiences inside and outside the classroom

To see submissions and to learn more about the #IAmTXEd campaign, visit TEA on social media. For questions regarding the campaign or to submit a story, please email [IAmTXEd@tea.texas.gov](mailto:IAmTXEd@tea.texas.gov).

### State Board of Education (SBOE) Updates

Donna Bahorich was reappointed by Gov. Greg Abbott for a second two-year term of office as chair of the State Board of Education. Her term is effective Feb. 1, 2017 to Feb. 1, 2019.

On Feb. 3, the State Board of Education gave preliminary approval to the revised curriculum standards for English and Spanish Language Arts and Reading for Kindergarten through eighth grade. The board will vote at the April 18-21 meeting for final approval. If the standards are approved, they will become effective for the 2019-2020 school year, replacing the standards approved in 2008. The initial vote on Language Arts standards for high school courses is scheduled for the April board meeting.

Changes to the TEKS involve a better alignment between the English and Spanish Language Arts standards and reorganizing the TEKS into seven strands.

### National Education Updates

Click for the full-text blueprint of the [FY 2018 Blueprint](#) from President Trump's budget plan. The Department of Education section begins on page 17 and contains information pertaining to increasing investments by 1.4 billion dollars for school choice.

How can one reading educator/advocate/TALE member make a difference?

- ❖ Research and use best reading/teaching practices in the classroom/campus.
- ❖ Advocate for the students in your classroom/school/campus.
- ❖ Write about educational and legislative concerns.
- ❖ Present on educational legislation to a group of stakeholders, such as teachers, parents, or a community group.
- ❖ Invite key officials to visit your school or district.
- ❖ Make personal visits to legislators.
- ❖ Make phone calls, write letters, or send emails to legislators.

The strands are:

- Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking and discussion
- Comprehension skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing using multiple texts
- Response skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing using multiple texts
- Multiple Genres: listening, speaking, reading, and writing using multiple texts
- Author's craft: listening, speaking, reading and writing using multiple texts
- Composition: listening, speaking, reading and writing using multiple texts
- Inquiry and research: listening, speaking, reading and writing using multiple texts

For more information about upcoming State Board of Education meetings visit:

<http://tea.texas.gov/sboe/agenda/>

## Legislative Updates: Texas

- [House Bill 22](#) - Related to a revision of the A-F campus grading system:
- [House Bill 1336](#) - Related to financial reporting by a school district regarding the costs associated with administering certain instruments
- [House Bill 1867](#) - Related to applicability of educator certification and assignment requirements to school districts of innovation
- [House Bill 2039](#)- Related to the creation of an early childhood certification
- [House Bill 3692](#)- Related to appraisal of public school teachers
- [House Bill 3812](#)- Related to an allotment under the foundation school program for students with dyslexia or related disorders
- [Senate Bill 3](#)- Related to education savings accounts or tax credits
- [Senate Bill 463](#)- Related to graduation requirements for future secondary students who struggle to pass required examinations but are able to demonstrate mastery of the content by other methods
- [Senate Bill 3563](#)- Related to parental notification regarding public school teacher qualifications
- [Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 510](#) - Related to preventing educators from using their payroll deduction to pay voluntary dues to professional educational associations
- [House Bill 2924 and Senate Bill 1278](#) - Related to educator preparation programs

## The Texas Education Leadership in Literacy Award

The Texas Association of Literacy Educators (TALE) presented its annual *Texas Education Leadership in Literacy Award* to the Honorable Joe Benavides, Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, in Nueces County. The award was presented during the 2017 TALE Conference, which took place on February 10-11, 2017 at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi. The award, presented by TALE's Advocacy Development



Committee, honors a Texas leader who has demonstrated literacy leadership. Judge Benavides received the award because of his commitment to literacy among parents of school-aged children who appear in his court. Instead of assessing high fines, Judge Benavides requires completion of an interactive literacy assignment: Parents are to read a book and create a book report with their children. The TALE Advocacy Development Committee was very pleased to present Judge Benavides with this prestigious award.

TALE is documenting all literacy efforts, so please submit copies of any correspondence, pictures, or other supportive documents to Sonja Gaddy at [sdgaddy@txwes.edu](mailto:sdgaddy@txwes.edu)

The TALE Advocacy Committee strives to keep TALE members informed about educational news and issues of interest. TALE members are also encouraged to send items of interest to the committee at [sdgaddy@txwes.edu](mailto:sdgaddy@txwes.edu)

We wish you an amazing spring and summer - Happy Advocating!

Committee Members: Lisa Avrit, Sara Ranzau, Amberly Walker, Connie Briggs, Laurie Sharp

Co-Directors: Sonja Gaddy and Melinda Butler

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# 2017 TALE Outstanding Literacy Program Award Winner

Presented by Mary LaFleur, Community Development Committee Director

## Giesinger Elementary School, Conroe ISD



Guided Reading



Library Fun



Reader's Workshop Minilesson



Shared Reading

# Congratulations!



Reader's Theatre



Word Work



Buddy Reading



Independent Reading



Read Aloud

**Giesinger Elementary School, Conroe ISD**

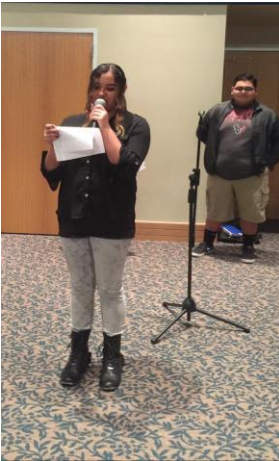
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## Barrio Writers at the TALE Social

Corpus Christi ISD students, who participated in the TAMUCC Barrio Writers creative workshop during the summer of 2016, read their poems to TALE conference attendees at the TALE Social and Reception Friday night, February 10, 2017. For more information about Barrio Writers go to <https://www.barriowriters.org/>



The Barrio Writers with poet and guest speaker, Van G. Garrett.



Naomi L. Castro



Alexis Avila



Destinee Garcia

## Author Signing





## Join a Committee!

### Advocacy Development

- Educates about, advocates for, and supports the importance of lifelong literacy learning in and through education by building alliances and creating a network among literacy educators and other educational stakeholders.

### Community Involvement

- Organizes and supports projects that create and sustain partnerships with individuals, professionals, and organizations who are interested in promoting activities that support literacy advancement in Texas.

### Educator Empowerment

- Empowers TALE members in ways that develop voice, ownership, and leadership of their professional literacy landscape

### Membership Development

- Creates and implements a plan to retain and recruit TALE members

### Communication

- Promotes communication among TALE membership through a variety of print, electronic, and social mediums.

# TALE Committee Kudos

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## TALE Community Involvement

Partnering with Catholic Charities, The Texas Association for Literacy Education's Community Involvement Committee, led by Mary LaFleur, provided a beautiful Little Free Library at the Auburn Creek Apartment Complex in San Antonio, which houses many refugee children, giving the children and young adults easy access to books. The ribbon cutting ceremony and blessing were held on June 20, 2016 for World Refugee Day.



Find a video of this event here:  
<https://video214.com/play/9Q3ndguoru1jZa2wL3ToCw/s/dark>

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## TALE Advocacy Development Committee

TALE's Advocacy Development Committee, with Laurie Sharp as the Director, applied for and received the International Literacy Association's 2016 Advocacy Award. This award recognized TALE's ongoing efforts to educate about, advocate for, and support the importance of lifelong literacy learning. 2016-17 President, Robin Johnson, accepted the award at the 2016 ILA conference in Boston.



# The 2018 TALE Conference

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## Connections in the Community

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH LITERACY

**Event Date:** February 23-24, 2018

**Location:** West Texas A&M University- Canyon, TX

**Conference Email:** [taleconference@gmail.com](mailto:taleconference@gmail.com)

**Conference Chairs:** Dr. Laurie Sharp & Mr. Brad Womack

Our annual conference will offer professional learning for professionals who serve all levels of learners.

Conference proposals are accepted now until August 7, 2017. Visit TALE's website for more information.

TALE has partnered with West Texas A&M University's College of Education and Social Science and Department of Education to host this event.

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For more pictures from the 2017 conference, please see our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/texasreaders.org>