

The Wave

The Newsletter of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards

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GCSchoolBoards@aol.com

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President's Message

I hope this finds each of you, your family and your school district well and thriving! As always, time is moving way too fast and we find ourselves already through the first half of the 2011-2012 school year. We are charting new territory while planning for STAAR and adjusting to fewer funds and more students. The amazing part is that, always, our leadership and our teachers are rising to the challenge because they want our students to succeed. **Our gratitude for these educators is beyond expression!**

I feel the same can be said about school trustees! Each of you has dedicated and volunteered your time and efforts in ways that only your cohorts and fellow trustees can begin to understand. Caught in the middle of your constituencies and the Legislature, you make every effort to bring the two together in order to see that the children in your community have the best possible opportunities for a strong education. Albert Einstein once stated that "Only one who devotes himself to a cause with his whole strength and soul can be a true master. For this reason, mastery demands all of a person". **Thank you for your devotion to your responsibilities as a trustee!**

Please mark your calendars for our next Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at Region 4 ESC. Our programs continue to provide optimal learning opportunities to assist the children of Texas!

Enjoy your family this always special holiday season, and may each of us have a very blessed and happy 2012!



Kathy Green, President

February 8 'Grass Roots' meeting to focus on legislation

Houston-area legislators will address the **February 3, 2012 GCAASB "Grass Roots" meeting** at Region 4 ESC before attendees begin the process of developing legislative proposals.

Legislators will begin speaking at **5:30 p.m.** Following a dinner co-sponsored by **GCAASB Associate Members PBK Architects** and the law firm of **Ogden, Gibson, Broocks, Longoria & Hall, LLP**, attendees will work with **TASB Governmental Relations** staff members to prioritize legislative issues and to elect representatives to the **Legislative Advisory Committee**.

Reservations must be made **by 10 a.m. Friday, February 3, 2012** to ensure that sufficient food is prepared by the caterer. All reservations need to be made **by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards@aol.com** or **by calling GCAASB Executive Secretary Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213** since legislative funding reductions have caused Region 4 to reduce staff.

"Even though there is no cost to register for a GCAASB membership meeting, **it is very important that reservations also be canceled by the due date** if you will not be able to attend as planned," said **President Kathy Green**. "When we have a large number of 'no shows', as we did at the November meeting, it creates a disservice to our Associate Members who are co-sponsoring the dinner."

Demographer emphasizes importance of education

Noting that the future of Texas and the U.S. are tied to how well its growing minority population does, former State Demographer **Steve Murdock** emphasized at **November 16 GCAASB membership meeting** that that education is the best predictor for how well people will achieve in society.

"We must change the relationship between demographic and socio-economic factors through education," Dr. Murdock said. "**Education pays!**"

Associate Members Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP, and Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Gallegos and Green, P.C. co-sponsored the dinner meeting and drew winning tickets for the four **\$500 student scholarships** that were awarded. Winning scholarships for their respective district were **Stafford MSD trustee Cindy Hoelscher, Clear Creek ISD trustee Bob Davee, Huffman ISD Asst. Supt. Benny Solieau, and Houston ISD trustee Mike Lunceford.**

GCAASB membership grows

GCAASB membership has grown to include 45 school districts and 20 education-related businesses and individuals.

Renewing memberships since September 15 were the **Anderson-Shiro, Royal, Damon, Katy, Barbers Hill, Dayton, Crosby, Goodrich, La Marque, Deer Park, Friendswood, and Anahuac** school districts.

Associate Members renewing their status since September 15 were the laws firm of **Schwartz & Eichelbaum, Wardell, Mehl and Hansen, P.C;** and **Escamilla, Poneck & Cruz, LLP;** the delinquent tax collection firm of **Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP;** and former Houston ISD Supt. **Dr. Billy R. Regan.** Joining as a new Associate Member was the architectural firm of **Brown Reynolds Watford Architects, Inc.**

*Make Reservations by 10:00 a.m. February 3
for the
February 8 TASB "Grass Roots" Program
by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards.com
or by calling Jerry Smith at 832-722-0213*

***MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR***

<p><i>Our Students ... Our Staff ... Our Schools ... Our Responsibility!</i></p>	<p>2011-2012 Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards <i>Proud of Our Public Schools!!!</i></p>	
<p>President Kathy Green, La Porte ISD 1st Vice President Becky Streetman, Huffman ISD 2nd Vice President Sarah Winkler, Alief ISD Secretary/Treasurer Wayne Schaper, Sr., Spring Branch ISD Past President Marine Jones, Aldine ISD</p>	<p>Directors Pete Vincent, Alvin ISD Linda Huebner, Columbia-Brazoria ISD Charles Cunningham, Humble ISD Georgan Reitmeier, Klein ISD Ettienne Zak, Stafford MSD</p>	<p>Steven Dennis, Channelview ISD Carl Burg, Goose Creek CISD Joe Adams, Katy ISD Kim Janke, Needville ISD Mark Lewandowski, Tomball ISD</p> <p>Executive Secretary Jerry Smith, APR</p>