

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

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your President for the coming year. I am humbled and honored, as well as eager to take on the challenge of a new school year. The Executive Board met on June 3 to set the budget, form committees, and plan programs for 2009-2010. A few changes have been made to our meeting schedule in hopes that it will make it more convenient for each of you to get in your required training hours.

Upon reflection, we have just completed one of the most unusual and challenging school years in quite some time. We have overcome many obstacles--hurricane season, swine flu, and extreme flooding just to name a few. However, seeing the thousands of students in our area achieve graduation makes it all worthwhile. Now we must brace ourselves for new accountability standards, tighter finances, and a new hurricane season. During our **September meeting**, an update on school funding and other legislation that will affect us will be presented by **David Thompson**. Please plan now to join us for the latest information pertaining to these important issues.

Together we can make this a successful and rewarding year for all of our constituents. Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in the coming months!



Marine D. Jones

Membership dues reduced in adopted budget

In recognition of the funding challenges facing school districts and supportive education-related companies and individuals, the Executive Board of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards has unanimously voted to **lower GCAASB dues by \$50.00 for each school district and Associate Member** for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Board maintained its **commitment to supporting students** by budgeting \$6,000 for **four \$500 scholarships** to be awarded by drawing **at each of the three membership meetings**. For the 2009-2010 year, the GCAASB membership meetings at Region 4 ESC, 7145 West Tidwell in Houston, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **September 2, 2009**; 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **February 10, 2010**; and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, **April 28, 2010**.

The dues structure for school districts is based on enrollment and the new rates are as follows:

50,000+ students - \$350.00	25,000-49,999 students - \$300.00
15,000-24,999 students - \$275.00	10,000-14,999 students - \$250.00
5,000-9,999 students - \$225.00	2,000-4,999 students - \$200.00
1,000-1,999 students - \$150.00	Below 1,000 students - \$100.00
County Board/Service Center - \$200.00	

Associate Members with multiple representatives will pay dues of \$250.00, while individuals will pay \$150.00.

The dues, plus funds from membership dinner sponsors and interest earnings, will enable the GCAASB to provide state-required training for Trustees and Administrators; provide publication and e-mail distribution of a regular newsletter; enable Trustees and Administrators to enjoy a no-cost meal at each of the membership meetings; enable the GCAASB to have a positive presence at the TASB/TASA Convention in Houston; and allow Trustees in attendance at the annual meeting to vote for the Officer and Director positions elected annually.

The **budget** adopted by the Executive Board on June 3 projects **income of \$17,875.00** and **expenditures of \$18,150.00**, with the projected deficit to be absorbed by the fund balance the GCAASB has developed through the years.

Program topics identified for 2009-2010 meetings

Noted education attorney **David Thompson** of **Thompson & Horton LLP** will kick-off the 2009-2010 school year for the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards with a speech on “**The Future of Public Education in Texas**” on **Wednesday, September 2** at **Region 4 ESC**. The membership meeting will begin with a 6:30 p.m. dinner co-sponsored by **Associate Member Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.**

With the annual **TASB/TASA Convention** being held at **Houston’s George R. Brown Convention Center Oct. 2-5**, the GCAASB Executive Board has voted not to hold a November membership meeting in 2009. Attendance at November meetings has annually been the lowest of the four meetings traditionally held.

The TASB Grassroots Process will be the focus of the **February 10, 2010** meeting at which participants will begin identifying legislative proposals that will be adopted at the 2010 TASB Delegate Assembly for the Texas Legislature session that will begin in January 2011. Specific programs for the **April 28, 2010 Spring Workshop** will be identified at the November Executive Board meeting.

Reservations for each dinner meeting must be made by the Friday before the Wednesday meeting by e-mailing GCSchoolBoards@aol.com or by calling **Tommye Wolverton** at Region 4 at 713-744-6534.

In addition, the GCAASB will host **Candidates Orientation** sessions at Region 4 ESC at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **October 14, 2009** and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, **April 21, 2010** for local School Board candidates.

Adopted budget includes new initiatives

GCAASB Officers, Directors elected April 22

New GCAASB Officers elected for the 2009-2010 GCAASB term of office at the April 22 Spring Workshop include **President Marine Jones** of **Aldine ISD**, **First Vice President Jimmy Zepeda** of **Hempstead ISD**, **Second Vice President Kathy Green** of **La Porte ISD**, and **Secretary-Treasurer Becky Streetman** of **Huffman ISD**. 2008-2009 GCAASB President **Kathy Hanson** of **Tomball ISD** moved to **Past President**.

GCAASB Directors elected include **Sarah Winkler** of **Alief ISD**, **Pete Vincent** of **Alvin ISD**, **Linda Huebner** of **Columbia-Brazoria ISD**, **J. T. Floyd** of **Dickinson ISD**, **Greg Meyers** of **Houston ISD**, **Joe Adams** of **Katy ISD**, **Steve Szymczak** of **Klein ISD**, **Frank Braden** of **Pasadena ISD**, **Fred Rivas** of **Sheldon ISD**, and **Wayne Schaper, Sr.** of **Spring Branch ISD**.

**Kick-off Meeting Registration Deadline
is Friday, Aug. 28!**

**Register by e-mailing
GCSchoolBoards@aol.com**

or by calling

Tommye Wolverton of Region 4 at 713-744-6534

