

# Leadership Team Times

November/  
December 2011

*Nine copies of this publication will be mailed monthly to the superintendent secretary to be included in the board packets.*

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDER

Don't forget that a recent amendment to the State Board of Education rule on board member continuing education now requires the president of the board to make the announcement about board member compliance with training requirements at the last meeting of the calendar year. For most boards, this will be the December meeting. At this meeting, the president must publicly announce which board members have met, exceeded, or are deficient in meeting their continuing education requirements. The December announcement is now the only required announcement during the year regarding continuing education credit. For information on making the announcement, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) and click on "announcing board training credit."

If you need additional continuing education for the year, TASB's Online Learning Center has resources available year-round. And remember these courses are free this year. Go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) for more information.

## NEW WEBINAR SERIES: EFFECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Beginning in December, you can receive board training credit at a location convenient to you through Webinars from Leadership Team Services (LTS). The first Webinar, scheduled for December 8 at noon (central standard time), will help you prepare for the superintendent evaluation process, conduct the evaluation, and develop a post-evaluation plan.

As part of TASB's effort to assist our members during the school funding crisis, Webinar fees have been waived for board members and administrators of ISDs this year. Go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) and click on Webinars for registration and workshop details. Questions? Call **800.580.8272**, extension 6161.

## OUTSTANDING BOARDS RECOGNIZED AT CONVENTION

Congratulations to all 2011 nominees, and hats off to Lubbock ISD for being named the 2011 Outstanding School Board. Each board was nominated by its superintendent:

- Barbers Hill ISD: Carmena Goss, Becky Tice, Benny May, George Barrera, Cynthia Erwin, Ron Mayfield, and Fred Skinner (Greg Poole, superintendent)
- Copperas Cove ISD: Joan Manning, Bob Weiss, Inez Faison, Jim Copeland, Mike Wilburn, Doug Cook, and Glynn Powell (Rose Cameron, superintendent)
- Denton ISD: Mia Price, Glenna G. Harris, Rudy Rodríguez, Jim R. Alexander, Curtis Paul Ramsey, Jeanetta Smith, and Charles Stafford (Ray E. Braswell Jr., superintendent)
- Lubbock ISD: James Arnold, Steve Massengale, Mario Ybarra, Melissa Collier, Chris Comer, Dan Pope, and Vernita Woods-Holmes (Karen Garza, superintendent)
- Ysleta ISD: Martha Y. Reyes, Andy Ramirez, Robert S. Ward, Ramon Federico, Shane Haggerty, Rosa Montes Kahoe, and Patricia Torres McLean (Michael Zolkoski, superintendent)

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## Training & Events

**JANUARY: SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

**WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR (WGLS):**  
February 16–18, Corpus Christi

**TASB GRASSROOTS MEETINGS:** January–March

**SUPERINTENDENT SECRETARY CONFERENCE:** February 23–24, Austin

### TIMELY RESOURCES

- *Developing Superintendent Performance Goals*
- *Focusing the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument on Results*
- *A New Board Member's Guide to Superintendent Evaluation*
- *A President's Guide to Facilitating Superintendent Evaluations*

To order these resources, see your superintendent's secretary for the latest publication order form included with this month's newsletter.

Access Convention presentations at [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org).

*For a complete list of training and events, or to access more details on any of the information referenced in this issue, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).*

Also recognized as regional honor boards were Carthage, Hutto, Lytle, and Point Isabel ISDs. Watch for more Convention details in the upcoming *Texas Lone Star* edition or go to [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org) for highlights.

## SPONTANEOUS INSPIRATION COMES IN ALL FORMS

An incident at last month's TASA/TASB Convention merits repeating. The motivation could have come from Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy's inspirational message of kindness and generosity at the Second General Session.

A part-time employee of one of the vendors that helps TASA and TASB with the Convention had her purse stolen during setup for the general session. It was returned to the TASA/TASB operations office by the Convention Center cleaning crew. Through research by staff, the owner of the purse, Brandy, a struggling single mom, was tracked down and arrived at the office to claim it. It was quickly discovered that \$300 was missing, cash she was going to use to pay her rent.

What happened next was amazing. As Brandy worked with security to complete an incident report and regain composure, staff members in the office began pooling money in an effort to replace at least some of the missing funds. Before long, word spread to other Convention staff and collection efforts were in full swing. In a matter of minutes, Brandy was presented with \$300.

On that day, the kindness and generosity of many turned the hopeless circumstances of a young single mom into an occasion for rejoicing in human goodness. She was overcome with emotions. Maybe there's a Brandy in your district who needs a helping hand.

## ON THE ROAD AGAIN

*by Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant*

Transparency and accountability are the new election buzz words on every level. New trustees frequently join the board in search of ways to keep their campaign promises while the rest of the team is in search of ways to bring them up to speed and help them be productive. Although elected singly, trustees are charged with working together on a vision that is best for the district. As board-superintendent teams come together for their annual team-building sessions, one strategy is to begin by looking at all the ways that the district currently demonstrates transparency and accountability. After acknowledging and celebrating their current successes, they can then brainstorm ways to further those objectives.

On a recent trip to Lovelady, David Koempel discovered how all the superintendents in Crockett County came together to prepare their stakeholders for the effects of the state budget shortfall. Instead of each telling their individual stories, they worked together to address the situation. Last year, while working with Coldspring-Oakhurst CISD, I saw that the board and superintendent were beginning to sponsor coffee chats where the community was invited to ask questions about the district. The response was so positive that they have continued to hold them on a regular basis. Like many districts, Argyle ISD posts its check register on its Web site so constituents have access to records of all district expenditures.

While these are just a few examples, we are confident that every district employs measures to keep its stakeholders informed and to provide opportunities for two-way communication. We hope that you will take the time to share some of those innovative things so that we can all benefit from them.

## Reminders

### ITEMS TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

- Superintendent evaluation
- Annual performance report
- District financial audit review
- Board training credit announcement

### DATES/ACTIVITIES TO REMEMBER

- **WINTER GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL SEMINAR (WGLS):** Housing opens November 1, and registration opens November 28.
- **SUMMER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (SLI):** Program submission deadline is January 27. Housing and registration open April 2.
- **2012 TASA/TASB CONVENTION:** Program submissions accepted December 1, 2011–March 15, 2012, at [tasa.tasb.org](http://tasa.tasb.org).

### Holiday Break

Next edition of *LTT* will arrive in early January. Happy holidays!

## Contact Us

*Leadership Team Times* is produced by the TASB Leadership Team Services (LTS) Division. For more information about LTS and its training opportunities and services, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org), or contact Lisa Carothers at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org) with questions or comments.