

# Leadership Team Times

January 2017

## Happy New Year

The beginning of the year is a good time to update your TASB membership records, especially if your district held November elections. Records can be updated through myTASB, the Association's password-protected area of [tasb.org](http://tasb.org), or by contacting Anisa Pope, **800.580.8272, extension 2907**.



The beginning of the year is also a good time to think about how we may have made a difference in our local communities during the holiday season. TASB works closely with Austin ISD's T.A. Brown Elementary School throughout the year, but is especially active during the holiday season. We would love to hear how your district gives back to the community during the holidays or any time. Maybe your story will inspire others in the coming year. Send details to [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org).

## Let's Hear It for the All-Stars!

January is School Board Recognition Month, and districts are encouraged to take this time to acknowledge the dedicated work of school trustees. This annual recognition is a time to focus on the crucial role trustees play in our communities and schools. Although showing appreciation should be practiced year-round, taking advantage of the designated School Board Recognition Month in January ensures that these important people receive some of the thanks they deserve.

To help districts plan recognition activities for their boards, a resource kit—including certificates, posters, logos, and tips—was mailed to each district in the fall and is posted online at [sbrm.tasb.org](http://sbrm.tasb.org).

Share your district's recognition activities with us! Be sure to note any special activities and include photos whenever possible. We want to spread the good news. We realize you voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing Texas schools, and we appreciate your service.

## WGLS Goes Live!

Can't make it to the Winter Governance and Legal Seminar this year? We will miss you, but we've got your back. New this year, portions of the program are

## Training, Events, & Reminders

**School Board Recognition Month:** January

**Winter Governance and Legal Seminar (WGLS):** March 2–4, Corpus Christi • Housing opens January 10 • Registration opens January 9, Lubbock

**Legal Seminar Series:** February 8, Tyler • February 9, Lubbock

**Conference for Administrative Professionals:** February 23–24, Austin

**Summer Leadership Institute:** June 15–17, San Antonio • June 22–24, Fort Worth

**Online Learning Center (OLC):** Courses available 24/7 at [onlinelearning.tasb.org](http://onlinelearning.tasb.org)



## Did You Know?

You can enter continuing education credit (CEC) on the go using CEC Mobile. All you need is current myTASB credentials and Wi-Fi. Details can be found at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

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being livestreamed so you can watch them from your home, office, or even on your smartphone. Eight breakout sessions and the Friday general session will be streamed live on TASB's Facebook page, so you can watch from your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, as long as you have access to Facebook. Viewing is free and open to anyone.

In addition to staying connected with the event, the livestream sessions also offer continuing education credit if you complete a post-session quiz in TASB's Online Learning Center. Access to each quiz requires a \$25 registration fee and provides 1.25 hours of training credit. More details can be found on the WGLS event page at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

Also new this year, we are pleased to introduce *Student Voices* as part of the WGLS program. *Student Voices* is a strand of sessions that give students a unique opportunity to share their voice about educational experiences and contributions to better schools. It's also an opportunity for you to listen and learn from the very community that inspires you to serve. Find more on this and other WGLS details at [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org).

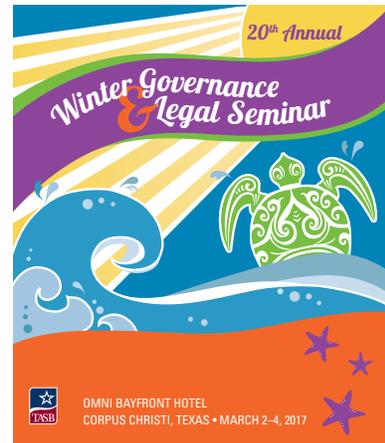
## On the Road Again

By Kay Douglas, LTS senior consultant

I recently met with the Amarillo board of trustees to facilitate a conversation regarding diversity. Aside from being a very cohesive and diverse team themselves, they make it a point to celebrate the diversity that exists in their district and community. I was impressed with their determination to provide a safe place for every child to learn and grow and to prepare each child for success. Toward this end, they have taken several unique actions that make a big difference.

First, they have embraced the largest population of refugees of any school district in Texas and use Rosetta Stone to assist in their education. The refugees speak more than 40 different languages, and as a result, Amarillo ISD now has 62 percent limited English proficient students. The December issue of *Texas Monthly* contains an article about their situation.

Second, the district has purchased the properties surrounding their schools to provide a safe "zone of tranquility" for their students. Third, each month, school board members take turns visiting one or two of the 55 schools in their district and report on those visits at board meetings. Fourth, they believe in educating not only the student, but also the parents, so they provide GED programs for parents. And lastly, they start at a very young age instilling the importance of attending college. Amarillo was the first district in Texas to establish No Excuses University seven years ago, and they continue to build on it each year. Campuses are decorated with information about colleges, they wear college colors, and they learn the fight songs. What a fun way to encourage children to further their education and to support the students and schools in their community. As one board member remarked, "As the district goes, so goes the community."



## Timely Resources

These TASB resources may be especially useful this time of year:

- New Board Member Leadership to Go package—includes three publications geared toward getting new board members up-to-speed quickly.
- The Board Presidents' Leadership to Go package—provides board presidents with tools to effectively lead their team. Go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org) for a complete list of resources.

Order these publications at [store.tasb.org](http://store.tasb.org) or call **800.580.8272, extension 1068**.

## 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, plus an electronic version of this newsletter, go to [LTS.tasb.org](http://LTS.tasb.org). Contact Lisa Carothers at [lisa.carothers@tasb.org](mailto:lisa.carothers@tasb.org) with questions or comments.