



# Legislative Session: May 1-5 We're Back Austin!

## SILVER BULLETIN 19<sup>TH</sup> TSHL 2Q2022

### FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature has had a busy and productive first quarter for 2022. Our members have been speaking to civic and community groups, hosting town hall meetings, and working with each other, agencies, organizations, and legislative staffers to research and draft resolutions on topics of great concern to older Texans.

Next month, May 2022, we will meet on the floor of the State Capitol as a body to deliberate, debate, and vote on these issues which will then be presented to the Texas Legislature in our biennial Legislative Report. An interim look at our proposed resolutions is included on page 2.

Enjoy this edition of the *Silver Bulletin*.

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker



It's hard to believe that the last time the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature met on the floor of the House of Representatives was July 15, 2019 (pictured above). Two years and ten months later, as we are hopefully emerging from the pandemic, we are scheduled to hold our 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session back where we belong!

For many of our members, the upcoming session will be the first time they have experienced the majesty, the pride, and the sense of responsibility that comes with being on the House floor and conducting business as a body modeled after the Texas Legislature.

Following many hours of research, phone calls, emails, and virtual conferences, our members have proposed 68 resolutions to be debated and voted on. The results of our deliberations next month will be included in our Legislative Report which will be distributed to all Texas Legislators and AAAs in the late summer/early Fall of 2022.

At that point the even harder work begins as we work with individual Legislators and their staff to get as many resolutions as possible turned into legislation and eventually enacted.

We do this work in collaboration with our Area Agencies on Aging, other organizations and agencies that advocate for issues affecting older Texans, and Legislators and legislative staffers.

We do this work because it matters to the State of Texas.

Most importantly, we do this work as advocates for our peers, older Texans.

# TSHL takes a 360° approach to its work – We research all

issues affecting older Texans – safety and security, mental and physical health care, affordable housing, long-term care, financial matters, caregiving issues, and communications - all blanketed with a concern for the dignity of older Texans! With input from constituents, stakeholders, and experts, TSHL members are currently drafting proposed resolutions to be deliberated during the 2022 legislative session with votes cast for their adoption. Adopted resolutions will direct TSHL advocacy during the upcoming 88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislative Session. All adopted resolutions will be included in our 2022 – 2023 Legislative Report, which will be distributed electronically and in hardcopy to all Texas Legislators and their staff during the late summer/early Fall of 2022. Below is a sample of areas of concern which are the focus of proposed resolutions being drafted.

- Expand Coverage and Usage of State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) Program
- Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes
- Zoning/Code Enforcement of New and Preservation of Existing Senior Housing Units
- Promote Active, Engaged, Well-Nourished Seniors - Grow *Texercise* into More Communities
- Require Dementia Education for Law Enforcement Officers and Other First-Responders
- Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Nursing Homes - Maintain Access to Care, Enhance Staffing Recruitment and Retention, Upgrade Medical Equipment and Facilities
- Examine Ways to Assist Elders to age at Home in both Rural and Metropolitan Areas
- Improve Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services
- Address Issues Specific to Veterans 60 Years of Age and Older
- **AND MORE...**

**TSHL Sessions are open to the public, and we invite Legislators, Capital staffers, and interested parties to observe us at work on the floor of the House, May 2-5.**

A Big Shout Out from **Sue Wilson**, LAC Chair, for these TSHL Members - Thank you for Stepping Up!

**Gary Gerstenhaber**, Austin, Capitol Area AAA, was selected as chair of the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, and Financial Services (PIFFS) effective January 31, 2022. Charles Scoma continues to serve as Vice-Chair. We still need an individual to serve as PIFFS Secretary.

**Dan Roberts**, North Central Texas AAA, was selected by members of the Retirement & Aging Committee (R&A) to serve as their new Chair effective March 15, 2022. Dr. Al Campbell will continue to serve as Vice-Chair and Maryann Barthelemy will continue to serve as R&A Secretary.

**Maryann Barthelemy**, Harris County AAA, accepted the appointment to serve as Secretary of the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) effective March 12, 2022 while continuing to serve as Secretary of the R&A Committee. As your LAC Chair, I am grateful that Maryann and Gary will be working together to get us through this upcoming Legislative Session.

Please visit our newly launched TSHL Website at [www.tshl.org](http://www.tshl.org)

For the latest About TSHL, Advocacy, Members, 2019-2021 Directory, Resources, Events, and TSHL Foundation

# TSHL MEMBERS OUT & ABOUT...

Right: Ross Leake, Chief of Staff for State Representative Dustin Burrows - Texas House District 083 - meets with TSHL Members Sue Wilson and Gary Gerstenhaber. Not pictured is Peggy Dimmick (who is taking the picture!)



Above: Sue Wilson, TSHL Legislative Action Committee Chair, meets with Melissa Madole, Director of Communications for State Representative Vikki Goodwin (Texas House District 47), and TSHL members Gary Gerstenhaber and Peggy Dimmick.

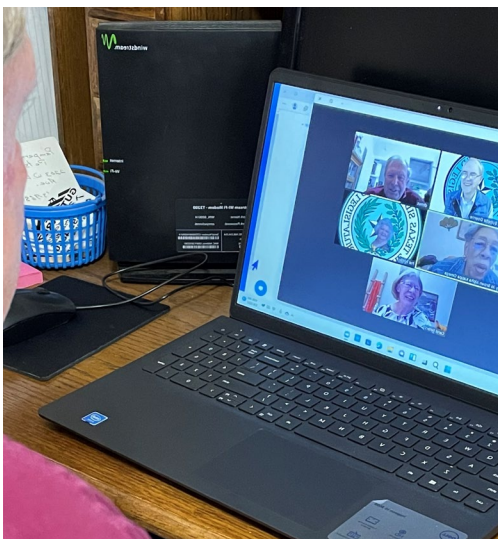
Below: Alan and Rosemary Mathis (Central Texas AAA) meet with Milam County Judge Steve Young to brief him on activities of TSHL. Among the topics discussed were the loss of all hospitals within the county, transportation for those needing care to facilities, and the Senior Center opening in one of the closed hospitals.



AND FREQUENTLY...

WE'RE VIRTUAL!!!!

Left: The Utilities & Natural Resources Committee meets to discuss proposed resolutions for the upcoming Legislative Session.



## THANKS AND KUDOS!

- ✚ **Ed Rogers & Ross Rolirad** for spearheading ad sales for the 2021-2023 TSHL Directory
- ✚ **Joan Blackmon** and the Operations Committee for logistics and planning our upcoming Legislative Session
- ✚ **Sue Wilson**, Legislative Action Committee Chair, **Viola Hebert**, Elections & Credentials Chair, and **Mike Taylor**, Technology Chair, for extensive pre-work to prepare TSHL for a “paperless” prioritization of Resolutions process
- ✚ **Kara Coffee**, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Texas House, for working with Speaker Pro Tem, **Sherry Hubbard**, and handling the myriad details associated with the TSHL Legislative Session

## UPCOMING DATES/DEADLINES FOR TSHL

- Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2022, Austin
- 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL Legislative Session – May 2-5, 2022 Austin
- Executive Committee Meeting – July 21, 2022, Corsicana
- Executive Committee Meeting – October, 2022 – TBA
- TSHL Foundation Gala & Legislative Dinner – February 23, 2023  
Bullock Museum, Austin, TX (sponsorships available)

Thanks to the contributors to this issue of the *Silver Bulletin*:

- Sue Wilson, Capital Area AAA
- Pat Porter, Permian Basin AAA
- Scott Christensen, Brazos Valley AAA
- Alan & Rosemary Mathis, Central Texas AAA
- Rhonda Rogers, Ark-Tex AAA
- Barbara King, West Central TX AAA

Speaker: Rhonda Rogers, Paris  
Speaker Pro Tem: Sherry Hubbard, Junction  
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem: Barbara Aydlett, Aquilla  
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Comptroller: Wayne Merrill, San Angelo

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## IN MEMORIAM:



TSHL expresses sincere sympathy to the family of **Charlotte Parks**. Charlotte was a 25-year member of TSHL from Ben Wheeler and was still serving on the East Texas Council of Governments when she passed away March 1, 2022.

## Member News

TSHL welcomes new member **Peggy Dimmick**, Capital Area AAA.



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Welcome new member **Rea Barry**  
Pictured above (l to r) Rea Barry, Mayor Robert Mangrum, Barbara King, and West Central Texas AAA Director Christal Martin.