



THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE: Keeping a “Watchful Eye”

SILVER BULLETIN 19TH TSHL 2Q2023

FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

The 88th Session of the Texas Legislature is in full swing, and members of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature are actively working alongside Representatives, Senators, and legislative staff to bring about a productive session for our State.

Our members are advocating for multiple bills that were introduced by the March 10 deadline, and testifying, when requested, before House and Senate Committees.

Additionally, TSHL members from across the State of Texas have been filing paperwork to run for re-election for our 20th Session – which begins in July 2023. We are grateful to the Directors of the 28 Area Agency on Aging regions for their assistance in this process.

We thank all who support our efforts, and we hope you will find this issue of the Silver Bulletin informative.

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

www.tshl.org

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature submitted fifty-four resolutions to the 88th Texas Legislature for consideration. These resolutions were selected from among seventy-one submitted, debated, and voted on during our Legislative Session in May 2022. They reflect those resolutions that we believe will have the most impact, address basic needs, and provide a cost-benefit relationship for older Texans. TSHL is very encouraged by the response of the Legislature in bills filed and/or budget line items proposed that address TSHL Resolutions. Some of the TSHL Resolutions that have been addressed through proposed legislation – one or more bills - at this time, include:

- HB54 (Rep. Thompson): responds to our #1 Priority Resolution – Increase Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Patients in Texas Nursing Homes.
- Rep. Buckley & Sen. Menendez potential sponsor): responds to our #3 Priority Resolution – Increase the Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail Documentation.
- HB 1275 (Reps. Plesa, Shaheen, and Lelani); HB1169 (Rep. Shaheen); HB 1749 (Rep. Hughes): responds to our resolution R031 – Amend the Texas Transportation Code to Simplify the Process for Older Texans to Convert their TDL to a Texas ID when they Choose to Stop Driving.
- SB 2223 (Sen. Menendez): responds to our resolution R017 requesting additional positions within the Texas Workforce Commission’s Older Blind Independent (OIB) Living Program.
- Two comprehensive and financially responsive bills (Sen. Huffman and Rep. Bonnen): respond to our #4 Priority Resolution -Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Teacher Retirement System Retirees.
- Establish a Legacy Funding Plan for the State Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOSRF), as stated in the initial filings of SB2 and HB1.

The above are examples of just a few of our Resolutions that appear to be gaining traction in Austin. TSHL Committee work is on-going for several additional resolutions including the following:

- Ensure full participation in use of the STEAR program for Emergency Management Statewide
- Authorize a 13th Month Annuity Payment to ERS Retirees.
- Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans

Our TSHL Representatives will continue to monitor bill progress, contact legislators and committee members, and provide important information regarding bill provisions on these and other TSHL Resolutions where bills have been filed. It is a marathon that we are prepared to run for Older Texans!

TSHL Executive Committee – April 28, 2023

GRAND HALL – North Richland Hills Centre – Tarrant County



TSHL Speaker, Rhonda Rogers, shares a laugh with Gib Lewis, former Speaker of the Texas House.

TSHL members – Mark your calendar to attend the upcoming **TSHL Executive Committee meeting on April 28!** A Town Hall meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch featuring Gib Lewis, former Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives (pictured left with Speaker Rhonda Rogers). **The Executive Committee will convene at 1:30 p.m. and conclude by 4:30 p.m.** If you can arrive a day early, an Educational Forum is planned for April 27 from 1-4:30 p.m. Contact Charles Scoma for details. Additional information on hotel accommodations and other activities will be forthcoming.

TSHL OUT AND ABOUT...

Current and former TSHL members visited the West Central Texas AAA CAC meeting and reported on efforts with Legislators regarding resolutions and the need for additional TSHL representatives. Pictured l to right are: Rea Berry, Walter Graham, Barbara King, Nancy Byler, and Crystal Martin-West Central Texas AAA Director.



Distributing *Legislative Reports* at Capitol. Pictured above: Gary Gerstenhaber, Sue Wilson, Allison Heinrich-Chief of Staff for Rep. John Bucy (HD136), Paul Stempko, and Claire Tague. Middle picture: Rep. Penny Morales Shaw (HD148) with Gerstenhaber and Stempko. Right Picture: Stempko and Gerstenhaber with Annelise Vogel-Chief of Staff and Adoneca Fortier-Legislative Director for Rep. Alma Allen (HD131)

Biennial FOUNDATION GALA a Success



A hard-working Board! An attentive Audience! Well-deserved Awards!



Excited and Motivated Bidders! Captivating Auction Items!



ALL COMBINED FOR A DELIGHTFUL EVENING!
Thanks to Generous Sponsors and All in Attendance – See you in 2025!!!

THANKS AND KUDOS!

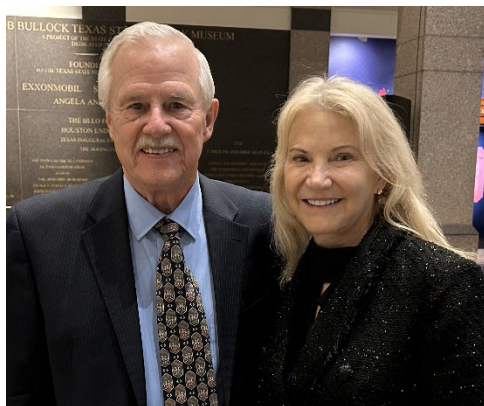
- ✚ **Sue Wilson** for her advanced planning for the Executive Committee meeting held in Austin on February 21, 2023! Great work!!!!
- ✚ **Charles Scoma** for heading the Planning Committee for the upcoming Executive Committee meeting in Tarrant County on April 28, 2023!
- ✚ All **TSHL members** who are testifying, emailing, texting, and calling Legislative Offices in support of bills responding to our Resolutions. Keep up the good work!
- ✚ Members of the **Foundation Board and Gala Planning Committee** for a successful event. Thanks for your support!
- ✚ **Directors of our 28 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)** for your support and assistance with our upcoming elections!
- ✚ **Speaker Rogers, Scott Christensen, Pat Porter, and Sue Wilson** for contributions to this issue of the *Silver Bulletin*.

UPCOMING DATES/DEADLINES FOR TSHL

TSHL Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting – April 28, 2023, Tarrant Co.
20th TSHL Orientation Session and Swearing-In: July 16-20, 2023, Austin

OFFICERS

Speaker: **Rhonda Rogers**, Paris
Speaker Pro Tem: **Sherry Hubbard**, Junction
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem: **Barbara Aydlett**, San Antonio
Secretary: **Bobette Doerrie**, Booker
Comptroller: **Wayne Merrill**, San Angelo



When appropriate, TSHL collaborates with other organizations to research resolutions. One of our many productive collaborations has been with the Texas Public Employees Association (TPEA). Pictured left, Scott Christensen and Ann Bishop, Executive Director of the TPEA at the Foundation Gala!

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILE FOR ELECTION FOR THE 20TH TSHL Session!!!!

We are actively seeking new members. Candidates for TSHL must be:

- 60 years of age or older
- A resident of the Area Agency on Aging district in which they file
- A registered voter in the State of Texas
- Willing to participate in all activities required and expected of Texas Silver-Haired Legislators.

For information on how to file for election, please visit our website: TSHL.org. ***Help us make a difference in the lives of Older Texans.***

Find a copy of our **2021-2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT** on our website: **TSHL.ORG**