



THE 20TH
TEXAS
SILVER-HAIRED
LEGISLATURE

FROM The TSHL Speaker

Since the November Member Development Session in San Marcos, TSHL representatives have been actively engaged. They're consulting older Texans on key concerns, meeting with Area Agencies on Aging, hosting town halls, presenting to various groups for input, and collaborating via Zoom to draft resolutions for consideration at the Legislative Session from May 6-9.

Additionally, TSHL members are soliciting support for ads in the TSHL Directory, a primary revenue source. Distributed in May through legislators' offices, AAAs, and businesses, the Directory will also be available online.

We are actively recruiting new members to reach our goal of 100 members by July 2024 and 123 by July 2025. Prospective legislators must be 60 or older, registered voters in their AAA region, able to financially support themselves for three 3-4-day sessions over a 2-year term, and committed to enhancing older Texans' lives. TSHL is non-partisan, focused solely on improving the lives of our rapidly growing senior population.

by: **Dr. Sherry Hubbard, Ed. D**
TSHL Speaker





TSHL Acknowledges Biennial Member Directory Ad Sales Purchasers

Our Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wishes to acknowledge some wonderful support from elected representatives, Area Agencies on Aging, and others who have purchased ads thus far in this terms TSHL Member Directory Ad Sales campaign.

We are hopeful for a May publication date to provide distribution to all statewide elected officials and over 2,500 other public venues where older Texans are served by our partner agencies who collaborate with 28 local Area Agencies On Aging.

Our Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) member Directory serves as a direct link for older adult voters in Texas to connect with their local elected representatives in the State Legislature, and others involved in legislative affairs.

The Directory is a key funding source for TSHL activities, deriving revenue from ads sold to statewide elected officials, state senators, representatives, Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers, and businesses with interests in serving older Texans.

Our TSHL Finance Committee, through this Ad Sales Campaign supports various initiatives including our TSHL Legislative Report which will also be published later this year.

TSHL members look ahead to the 2025 89th Texas Legislature. Support for our TSHL membership Directory Ad Sales Campaign is encouraged, and contributions can be made at www.tshlf.org. Thank you for your support.



By: Edward L. Rogers
TSHL Deputy
Speaker
Pro Tempore



The theme for Older Americans Month (OAM) this year is "Powered by Connection." It focuses on the profound impact which meaningful connections have on the well-being and health of our older adults and the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) members are indeed fulfilling it. This is our opportunity to recognize TSHL and Shout out, a Big Texas, Thank you, for their advocacy to older Texans!

* They invest time with people to build new relationships and discover deeper connections with family, friends, colleagues and neighbors.

* Get the word out about Older Americans' health and social connection needs through professional and personal networks.

*Search for opportunities to "Power by Connection" when taking part in community activities, programs, recreational, and interactive virtual events.

*Stay engaged in their communities by giving back through volunteering, working, teaching, or mentoring.

TSHL is all about supporting important issues of concern affecting our older Texans by representing them to alleviate issues that hinder quality of life and healthy aging.

TSHL Upcoming Dates

April 1- June 30

1. Each LIC Committee will meet to review and either approve, approve with modifications, or reject resolutions assigned by PRRP to that LIC Committee (Virtual Meetings). Committee will submit approved resolutions to LAC no later than April 30th.
2. May 5, Austin Wyndham Garden Executive Committee meeting 2pm - 5pm
3. May 6-9 Capitol TSHL Legislative Session 9am - 4:30 pm



Enhancing Support for Older Americans: 2024 Final Rule Updates

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) recently released a significant update to the regulations governing its Older Americans Act (OAA) programs. This marks the first substantial revision to most OAA program regulations since 1988. The new rule aligns with the current statute, addresses emerging issues, and provides clarity on various requirements.

Key Points:

1. **Supporting Aging in Place:**

The primary goal of the updated regulations is to strengthen the system of supports that enable millions of older adults to age in place. By enhancing services and clarifying guidelines, the rule aims to ensure that seniors can continue living independently and thrive within their own homes and communities.

2. **Statutory Alignment:**

The 2024 final rule brings OAA regulations in line with the current legal framework. It reflects amendments made to the OAA by Congress over the years and provides a more accurate representation of the evolving needs of older Americans.

3. **Improved Program Implementation:**

The updated regulations offer better guidance to the national aging network responsible for delivering OAA services. By streamlining processes and addressing practical challenges, the rule seeks to enhance program implementation.

4. **Prioritizing Social and Economic Needs:**

The final rule emphasizes prioritizing individuals with the greatest social and economic needs. It ensures that services reach those who require them the most, including rides to medical appointments, nutritious meals, in-home assistance, and support for family caregivers.

5. **Lessons from the Pandemic:**

Drawing from lessons learned during COVID-19, the regulations incorporate provisions that promote appropriate stewardship of OAA resources.

Continued: OAA

This includes fostering consistency between state and tribal programs and reinforcing fiscal requirements.

The new regulations will take effect on March 15, 2024, allowing regulated entities until October 1, 2025 to comply.

ACL remains dedicated to supporting states, tribes, area agencies on aging, and other partners in implementing these vital changes.

Our Gratitude to The Administration for Community Living (ACL) for their valuable work in supporting older Americans. (Article contributed by Pat J. Porter, former TSHL member and Speaker, and Emeritus member.)

The Older Americans Act

The Older Americans Act authorization will expire at the end of FY 2024. As it has for every past reauthorization, US Aging will work with policymakers and stakeholders to update this vital Act, which supports millions of older adults and caregivers annually, and is the foundation of the Aging Network's ability to create a wide range of programs and services to support older adults' health, well-being and ability to age well at home and in the community.

Please contact your legislators in DC and ask them to support the reauthorization. Though this is at the federal level, it has tremendous impact at the state level. Here is the website:- <https://www.usaging.org/> and for additional information on the Older Americans Act, go to www.usaging.org/OAA

Thank you, and spread the word!

Article submitted by:
Pat Gleason-Wynn, PhD,
LCSW, RN-BC
Secretary





TSHL Presentation to The Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging

TSHL Speaker Sherry Hubbard was invited to make a presentation to the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging (T4A) at their Training Meeting on February 7 in Austin. The presentation included information about the history of the TSHL and the very close relationship it had with the AAAs as it was being organized in 1985. In addition, Dr. Hubbard explained for the benefit of many of the newer AAA Directors how TSHL works, what its mission is, and how it has been successful over the 39 years it has been in existence.

The AAAs continue to support TSHL by helping in the recruitment and elections of qualified legislators. In addition, the TSHL representatives in many of the AAAs serve on the AAA advisory boards. TSHL is empowered to advocate for the senior issues that the AAAs identify as needed to improve the lives of older Texans. This close relationship between the two organizations is important to the successful mission of both TSHL and the AAAs.



Dr. Sherry Hubbard, TSHL Speaker and Austin area TSHL representative Gary Gerstenhaber assisted in the presentation.

Seeking New Members

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 more information on how to file for election, please visit our website at: www.tshl.org Help us make a difference in the lives of older Texans.



TSHL Representative Ed Rogers Alamo Area

Town Hall Meeting Boerne Public Library



Ed Rogers, Alamo Area TSHL representative, hosted a town hall in the Boerne Public Library assisted by TSHL Speaker, Sherry Hubbard, on February 8. Ed prepared copies of previous TSHL resolutions that were submitted to the Texas Legislature last session but were not passed into law. The goal was to get citizen input into how to update and improve these resolutions to be re-submitted to the Legislative Session of the TSHL to be held in May. Though the turnout was light, the information received was very helpful in updating some of the resolutions.



THE 20TH TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Senior Safety Summit, San Angelo, Texas



Dr. Sherry Hubbard



TSHL sends a big "Thank you" to San Angelo, Texas AAA, COG, the Fire Department, Shannon Hospital and everyone else who helped to make our time in West Texas just wonderful! The Senior Safety Summit presentations were excellent and the BBQ Lunch, so yummy!



Health & Safety Representatives



Senior Safety Summit Attendees



The third quarterly Executive Committee (EC) meeting was held on January 18th. The meeting began at 1:30 pm, at the Council of Government Building in south San Angelo. Many TSHL Members attended via Zoom.



Sharon Kulig's TSHL 20th Birthday Celebration



TSHL Members Zooming Executive Committee Meeting



BBQ Lunch



Thank you!



Old Central Firehouse Pizzeria and Tap House



Dinner at Miss Hatties



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**The Area Agency on
Aging (AAA)**

AAA provides services to support the health, safety, and well-being of adults 60 and older by providing:

1. Information & Referral/Assistance
2. Benefits Counseling
3. Ombudsman Program
4. Health and Wellness
5. Care Coordination
6. Caregiver Support Services
7. Nutrition Programs
8. Medication Screening
9. Aging and Disability Resources

Texas AAA: # 1-800-252-9240
or

Texas Aging and Disability Resource
Center
#855-937-2372

You may also visit the
Directory of Area Agencies on Aging
for more information.

TSHL

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is a statewide, all-volunteer, self-funded community education, research, and advocacy organization supported by contributions through our TSHL Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization. To make your contribution, please go to TSHLF.ORG and click the Donation Tab on our website at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s%20xclick&hosted_button_id=XQDCBSKM8YPDG&source=url

TSHLOFFICERS

Speaker: **Sherry Hubbard**, Junction
Speaker Pro Tem: **Charles Scoma**, N. Richland Hills
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem: **Edward Rogers**, Boerne
Secretary: **Pat Gleason-Wynn**, Arlington
Comptroller: **Wayne Merrill**, San Angelo