

TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Bill Tarleton | Executive Director

Bonnie Walker | Director of Operations

Kasey Hyde | Coordinator of Member Services



August 2022 | TREA Membership Year 2022-2023

Thank you for your continued support of TREA with your 2022-2023 recent renewal. With over 400 school districts and ESC Regions as members, TREA has the largest, most influential network of rural school districts in Texas.

As we enter our 30th year, we're taking on the new challenges and pressing issues facing Texas schools, and you're an important part of this work. TREA is here to support your district, staff, students, and to advance the educator profession. Let's keep striving for quality educational opportunities and experiences for all children from rural public schools.

Respectfully,

[Bill Tarleton](#)

Executive Director



[Bonnie Walker](#)

Director of Operations



[Kasey Hyde](#)

Coordinator of Member Services



"If you think you're rural, you are!"

TREA was established in 1992, and we continue to grow in order to provide expanded opportunities for our membership. TREA exists to support and collaborate with school districts in their goal of improving student achievement by providing a variety of services and benefits. Please make sure you are aware of all of the benefits available to your District. Below are the benefits of being a member. You can also review them on our [website](#).

Job Board | Our [Job Board](#) offers 10 free postings for TREA member districts, has listings for any and all school district openings and positions as well as positions available with our current corporate sponsors. Non-member districts are able to view and respond to postings at no charge and may post for a nominal fee.

Student Scholarships & Art Contest | TREA and our sponsors award more than \$50,000 in scholarships annually. Applications for these [scholarships](#) are available in December to every graduating senior attending a TREA member district. We also sponsor an [Art Contest](#) which awards close to \$3000 between 9 winners across three multi grade level divisions. Applications will be available in the Spring.

Robotics Education Competition Foundation (REC) Grants | In 2021 [REC partnered with TREA](#) and so far has awarded over \$70,000 in high school robotics kits and entry fees to TREA member districts. There is an opportunity for more participants this year. High School grants include the robotics kit, training, and limited entry fees, valued at \$2,000. Contact Bill Tarleton at btarleton@txrea.com or Andy

Schaafs at Andy_Schaafs@RoboticsEducation.org for more information.

No Kid Hungry Texas (NKH) Grants | In addition to being a TREA Diamond Sponsor, [NKH awarded](#) \$150,000 to five TREA member districts in 2021-22, **Cotulla, Mexia, Mount Pleasant, Navasota, and Sinton**. For 2022-23, NKH will award \$30,000 to each of these rural school districts, **Bland, Brookesmith, Henderson, Junction, Slaton, and Smithville**.

TREA Summer Conference | TREA offers a [Summer Conference](#) at the end of June each year and 2022 was the largest ever. There were over 500 registrants, numerous breakout sessions, many of which were for Board Training credits and an exhibit expo with 60 vendors and sponsors. We will return to the Kalahari Resort in Round Rock for our 2023 conference on June 25-28. Questions? Contact Bonnie Walker at bwalker@txrea.com or (512) 415-1646.

Advocacy | TREA represents our membership at both the state and national level. We have a Legislative Committee, and work with Powell Law Group (PLG) on legislative matters. During the legislative session members receive weekly legislative updates through PLG and TREA. TREA member districts are also represented by The National Rural Education Association (NREA). Currently 44 states are members of NREA. The National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition (NREAC) is the legislative branch of NREA.

Legal Services Program | At no additional cost, TREA members are entitled to a basic retainership through the Powell Law Group (PLG). The retainership also includes some board training opportunities and other services which can be found [here](#).

Superintendent Mentor Program | New superintendents must have a trained superintendent mentor who oversees 36 hours of professional development and maintains correspondence on a regular basis. TREA has over 60 Superintendent Mentors across the state and in most ESC Regions. Contact Bill Tarleton for more information at btarleton@txrea.com or (254) 602-2056.

UTeach Blended Learning PD | Fully Reimbursable through TEA funding and written by teachers with Rural teaching experience. It utilizes practicing K-12 pedagogy experts as instructors, is self-paced, and includes 6 hours G/T credit update embedded in the courses. Go to: pd.uteach.utexas.edu/courses or contact Jackie Burniske at burniske@uteach.utexas.edu.

TREA Board of Directors | Our Board has representation from almost every ESC Region of Texas. The Executive Committee (Officers) and all board members are available via our [online directory](#).

Sponsors | The sponsors that make up our four levels of sponsorship as well as conference sponsors, are vital to our existence and provide the ability to provide our membership with a variety of benefits and services. Please check them out on our [website](#).

Education Service Centers | TREA is appreciative to all 20 ESCs, as they provide a variety of services to our member districts in terms of partnerships, professional development and board training, sponsorships, and other assistance in our promise to provide benefits and services to rural school districts.

Again, thank you to our current members and if your district is not a member and you are interested in joining please reach out. Feel free to [email](#) or call Bill Tarleton at (254) 602-2056 if you have questions about [TREA](#).