

**TREA Gears Up for a Busy Spring**

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating time with family and friends over the Christmas break. TREA staff and board members are refreshed, motivated and hard at work. This new year is already promising to be a busy one for rural education in Texas.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our TREA Annual Members' Appreciation Dinner during the TASA Midwinter Conference. The camaraderie always energizes our group. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Speaking of busy, the 89th Legislative Session is in full swing, and our dedicated [Legislative Committee](#) has been working tirelessly, keeping a close eye on all bills that impact our rural schools and students. Their advocacy is crucial as we navigate this important legislative year, and we encourage you to stay informed and engaged in the process. We will continue to provide updates and calls to action as needed.

Time flies, and before we know it, our TREA Annual Conference will be here! Start making plans to join us for valuable professional development, networking opportunities, and discussions focused on the unique challenges rural schools face. We're also looking forward to supporting ESC 13 with their [rural schools spring conference](#). Details for all of these events are included in this newsletter.

As we move forward, TREA remains committed to working together, now more than ever, to advocate for the needs of rural students and school districts across Texas. We believe that by collaborating and supporting each other, we can ensure that every child, regardless of location, has access to a high-quality education. Let's make this year a huge success for rural education!



**A friendly reminder:** Please ensure that you are receiving our emails. We regularly send out vital information regarding deadlines, conference details, legislative updates, and other important news. Check your spam or junk folders, and add our email addresses to your contacts to avoid missing out on anything. Effective communication is key to our collective success.



**Conference Information | Deadlines | June 22-25 | Kalahari Convention Center**

Don't miss out! Registration for the TREA Annual Conference is still open, but important deadlines are fast approaching! If you're planning to participate in some of our exciting conference activities, please take note: the Student Scholarship deadline is February 28th, and the deadline for the Student Art Contest is March 24th. Nominations for our prestigious ["of the Year" Awards](#) are due March 3rd. Teacher of the Year will receive a cash award and serve as our keynote speaker at the awards luncheon during the conference! The Paraprofessional of the Year also receives a cash award. All finalists in all categories will be recognized on stage at the conference. All winners in each category will receive a beautiful crystal award on stage.

We're also still accepting proposals for presentations – if you have a valuable and dynamic program idea to share, please [submit your proposal](#) as soon as possible. Because of the amazing programming offered during the conference, school board members can fulfill required training hours and staff can receive up to 10 hours of CE credits and professional development.

Use the links below to access all things **CONFERENCE!**

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

**EVENING AT DELL DIAMOND**

**Hotel Reservations**

**CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FORM**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 3**

**Student Art Contest Form**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 24**

**2025 OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 3**

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28**

**9TH ANNUAL Silent Auction**

**JUNE 23 | 5-8PM**

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Other Events | Save the Dates | Reminders**

[Rural Schools Spring Conference](#) | February 25-26 join ESC Region 13 and the System of Service Centers for the Texas Rural Schools Spring Conference, where educators from rural schools come together to share successful strategies and solutions tailored to their unique needs! Check out this [video from the keynote speakers](#). [ATTENDEE/SPONSOR INFO](#) or questions: [monica.naz@esc13.tweed.net](mailto:monica.naz@esc13.tweed.net)

TREA supports and works with ESC 13 for this event.



**Byrd wins NREA Election**



TREA Past President | Jeff Byrd

We are thrilled to announce that Mr. Jeff Byrd, TREA Immediate Past President and Superintendent of Dalhart ISD, has won his election for the Rural School Administrator position on the National Rural Education Association (NREA) board! This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to Jeff's dedication to rural education. This means we now have five Texans serving on the NREA board and/or committees! This strong representation at the national level ensures that the voices and needs of Texas rural schools are heard and considered. Congratulations, Jeff, and let's continue to champion rural education on the national stage!

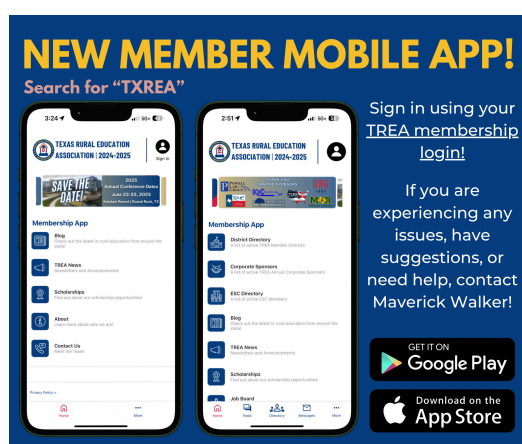
Each TREA member district's Superintendent is a member of NREA

**New TREA Merch Store!**



TREA is always moving forward, seeking new and innovative ways to serve our members. Continuing our "Forward Thinking" initiative, we're excited to announce our newest offering: a TREA merchandise swag store! Now you can show your support for rural education in Texas with TREA-branded apparel and other merchandise. This online store joins a growing list of service enhancements we've added over the past 4 years, including fully web-based membership account access, an expanded conference, and a dedicated membership and conference app. We're proud to showcase this latest addition to the many benefits TREA offers, and we invite you to check out the store and grab some TREA swag today! View the online store [here](#).

**Download the Membership App for Conference Access & Membership Profile Updates**



The TREA Conference App is integrated in the Member App! The app is live on all platforms and can be found by searching 'TXREA'. Your login is associated with your TREA membership login! Use this tool to stay on top of conference information, easily lookup contacts, and be the first to know about any events coming up. Please download the app, login to see all the features, and turn on notifications to get important messages from us. If you have any issues, suggestions, or need help, reach out to Maverick Walker ([mwalker@trea.com](mailto:mwalker@trea.com)).



To make sure the correct personnel have access to the app, please login to the [ISD](#) or [Sponsor/Company](#) profile to review profiles and key contacts. Please let Kasey Hyde know if you need to update the current superintendent to a new superintendent OR if you 'unlink' anyone (ISD, sponsor, or company) as another step needs to be taken administratively to fully update that record.

**New TREA Sponsors**

**High STEPS** Public Sector Business Consulting

**SILVER SPONSOR** | It's my pleasure to introduce you to K12 Corral, a vast collection of education data from EVERY school district in the United States. Everything from Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, Per Pupil Spending, Bond & RFP tracking to State Test Scores for every grade level and every subject at every campus! Information you can certainly use to compare your district with others within your state. All of this is presented in a very user-friendly environment and is incredibly affordable!

With W\*AI\*ngler, our AI component, you have absolutely no boundaries when it comes to your vision! W\*AI\*ngler can help support your Grant Writing efforts and the arduous RFP process. You can perform comparative analyses relative to other school districts, and even perform individual vendor analyses. All of this is available at your fingertips. We have also included over 450 sample prompts to get you started but you may also use your own. TREA has negotiated a 10% subscription discount for any member district who wants to participate. For more information, please visit <http://k12corral.com/> and register for one of the upcoming workshops.

**Symmetry Sports Construction**

**SILVER SPONSOR** | Symmetry Sports Construction offers turnkey solutions in the realm of general sports construction. We're committed to excellence in all we do, and we seek to develop lasting relationships with our clients. Symmetry is not in the business to win a single job and move on. We are working to earn your trust and business as we want you as a customer for life.

[Symmetry](#) was founded in 2010 with one primary goal in mind, glorifying God by setting the standard in sports construction. Since then, we have been trusted to build hundreds of high-profile projects, including 7 NFL fields and dozens of NCAA fields and have evolved into a much larger construction company with the ability to facilitate a turnkey approach to sports construction. At Symmetry we have 7 Proverbs we strive to live by. Our #1 proverb is to "Deliver On Our Promises". That is our promise to you that we will strive to deliver on time with the quality and service you expect and deserve on every job.

**TREA Partners**

The VEX Robotics World Championship 2025 is seeking volunteers to help support one of the largest STEM competitions in the world, taking place **May 6-14, 2025, in Dallas, TX**. Hosted by the REC Foundation, this event will welcome over 2,000 teams from 56 countries, offering students the opportunity to showcase their engineering and robotics skills. Volunteers can participate in **remote judging**, where they conduct virtual team interviews and evaluate Digital Engineering Notebooks between February and April 2025, or they can join as **In-person Judges**, assisting with interviews and award selections at the championship. Additional **event volunteer roles** are available to help support competition logistics while engaging with students from around the world. Volunteers will gain valuable experience, contribute to STEM education, and receive perks such as community service hours, a VEX Championship t-shirt, an event badge, and a lunch voucher for full-day volunteers. Be part of this exciting opportunity to inspire the next generation of innovators! [Sign up today: VEX Robotics Volunteer Registration](#).

**TREA Job Board**

Don't forget to use TREA's [Job Board](#) for any and all of your district/ESC postings. It's part of your membership benefits! TREA Members reach out to [Kasey Hyde](#) for the code. Contact [Bonnie Walker](#) for questions about the Job Board.

**TREA | Leading the Way for Rural Schools**

**Stay Connected with Us on Social Media**

