

# Texas Rural Education News

## THE TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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President: James Cowley, Sunnyvale ISD

Executive Director: Don Rogers



### James Cowley is TREA President 2010-11

Dr. James Cowley (r) was installed as the 18<sup>th</sup> President of TREA by outgoing President, Diane Stegall (l) at the June Summer Conference in Fort Worth.

Cowley is currently Assistant Superintendent of the Sunnyvale I.S.D. located in Region 10 on the outskirts of Dallas.

### TREA Website with a New Look

We have remodeled our web site and it will have a new look. It is the same address, but it has lots of new features and users will find it easier to use.

The web site has something for every professional on your faculty.

Teachers will find resource links that will provide new instructional ideas.



August 2010

We will provide direct links to every member school district. Just click on the member ISD and you will be directed to their web site.

Vendors who have been pre-screened for reliability will also be listed through the TREA Marketplace.

This site has been redesigned by Morris and Holly Lyon, both are educators with lots of tech skills.

Our web site is sponsored by **Wilkerson Educational Consulting**.

### Accountability Ratings System Under Fire

Controversy has arisen statewide following the release of the new accountability ratings which indicated that exemplary school districts had tripled from 43 to 117 in one year.

TEA Commissioner Scott did not attend a recent hearing of the House Appropriations subcommittee where Rep. Scott Hochberg took issue with the new Texas Projection Measure which counted almost half of failing students as having passed.

The Dallas Morning News, in a recent Editorial, also took issue with the new system calling it "fatally flawed."

They pointed out that the projection method was correct only two-thirds of the time when projecting the number of students who would pass the TAKS in 2010 and urged the state to "distinguish between actual and projected achievement" in future reporting.

This will likely be an issue in the current race for Governor.

## **Drury Inn Offers Special Rates to TREA Members**

TREA members who are coming to events in Austin should keep in mind that we have a special rate arrangement with the Drury Inn located at 6711 N. IH 35.

The rate for a King Deluxe room is \$85.00 with a \$10.00 charge for each additional adult in the room. The rate for a Suite is \$110.00.

To make a reservation at Drury Inn and to get the TREA rate you should go to our web site and click on benefits. Scroll down to Drury Inn and click on that link and you can make your reservations there. The Drury Inn is well located near excellent restaurants and offers easy access to Downtown Austin.

Members who have used this benefit have been very complimentary of the Drury Inn.

## **Membership Goal for 2010-11 is 200 Institutional Members**

President James Cowley has set a goal of 200 Institutional Members for the 2010-11 school year. TREA had 150 Institutional members in the year just completed.

Our membership has doubled in the past two years. Your membership will ensure that you are strongly represented on the state and national level on rural issues.

We urge you to consider having your school district join both the TREA and NREA for \$800.

If you have misplaced your invoice we will be glad to send you another or you can just go to our web site to download and complete a membership application.

## **NREA Convention is October 15-17 in Branson, MO.**

The NREA Convention this fall will be held at the Chateau on the Lake Resort and Convention Center in Branson, Missouri.

Plan to attend this meeting. You will enjoy one of the best professional development opportunities and great entertainment offered in Branson.

To register go online to [www.nrea.net](http://www.nrea.net). You can both register for the conference and make your room reservations at this web site.

Texas has won the attendance award at the past two NREA conventions. We need to make it three.

### **TREA Calendar**

**Sept. 15, 2010** Officers and Directors Meeting  
DFW Marriott Hotel Fort Worth  
Planning Meeting for Summer  
Conference, 2011

**January 30-  
February 2, 2011** Midwinter Conference  
Austin

**January 30, 2011** Officers and Directors Meeting  
Austin

**January 30, 2011** Members Legislative Dinner  
County Line Restaurant  
Austin

**January 31-  
Feb 1, 2011** TREA Booth #1425 at Austin  
Convention Center

**January 31-  
Feb. 1, 2011** NREAC Washington, D.C.

**June 16-18, 2011** Summer Conference, DFW  
Marriott Hotel and Golf Club,  
Fort Worth

**S**uperintendents:  
Please remind your principals and  
teachers that they are also members  
of TREA.

**As we begin preparation for our next  
Conference we would like to hear from  
you.**

**What is a need in your school district that  
we could address at our Conference?**

**Let us hear from you.**

**We got some ideas from our conference  
evaluation forms , but there may be more  
ideas out there.**

**E-mail me at [SDonR@aol.com](mailto:SDonR@aol.com) with your  
suggestions.**