

# SOCORRO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SEA Newsletter

Communicating EXCELLENCE

SUMMER 2014

## New SEA Board to Take Office

Socorro Education Association's new Executive Board was elected on May 6th, 2014. The campaigning was fierce, many members ran for positions on the board and many more came out to vote. The record breaking turn out marked the importance of this year's exciting new changes in the air. Regardless of the election outcome, there were no losers, we are still united and on our way together to the next level in education reform and representing the employees fair work rights. The newly elected board will officially take office on July 15, 2014. The following are your newly elected board: President-Angelica Soto, Vice-President-Remi Garcia, Secretary-Debra Herbolt, Treasurer-Roxann Bush. At Large Positions-Caryn Gonzalez, Inez Hernandez, Tomas Hernandez, Leann Schmidt, and Lydia Gonzalez. The Executive Board encompasses different experience levels including teachers, ESP's, CNS (Cafeteria Service), SISD Security, and DSC administrative assistant. The majority of SISD positions are represented making SEA a well-rounded association that understands the issues of all. This year will be a breath of fresh-air, the executive board is summer cleaning the office and in-taking the yearly training on all aspects of SEA governance, organization, fiscal responsibility and customer service given by the best of the best in education associations. TSTA President elect, Noel Candelaria, and Current TSTA President Rita Haecker rolled out our 2014-2015 SEA training. We are calling on our members to come chat with us, get to know us, join a committee of your choosing that will continue to inspire your passion in education. The SEA Board is looking forward to meeting with you and continuing our collaboration of good works.



**Transportation Gains Big Summer Win!**

### Happening in SISD:

- Special Education
- Educators Corner
- Transportation
- Custodians
- NEA NEWS
- TSTA NEWS
- Calendars
- Dates to Remember



**SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS:** The U.S. Department of Education informed states that assessments based on modified standards for students served by special education cannot be used for accountability purposes after the 2013-2014 school year. STAAR Modified will be administered for the last time in 2014. Spring 2015 will be the first administration of STAAR A, the accommodated version of STAAR. September: TEA met with a focus group (consisting of classroom teachers, campus administrators, district personnel, Education Service Center specialists, and advocates) to obtain input regarding how students with disabilities that are currently eligible for STAAR Modified are being provided access to the general curriculum. November-present: TEA staff has been working on plans for possible additional accommodations via an online delivery system similar in functionality to STAAR L

Texas Education Agency June 5, 2014

# Educators Corner



## *Now This is a Teacher!*

In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'

By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.

Let us always remember the men and women of our military and the rights they have won for us.

## SISD Transportation <sup>3</sup> Keeps our district on the move!

**SEA Transportation workers** successfully apposed the proposal by SISD Administration to lower workers hours for different tasks during the summer. The proposal would have impacted the transportation workers and their families. The quality of service to our children would have also been impacted.



**SEA organizes** transportation personnel affected by the SISD Administration's recommendation to lessen summer hours. The decision would affect the safety of children. Assistant Superintendent Mr. O'Neill, was invited to the SEA office to meet with the transportation workers to discuss the issue. In a packed room SEA members voiced their concerns to Mr. O'Neill. A consensus was reached, recommendations would be taken back to the board.



At the board meeting personal stories were shared on how this decision would greatly impact their families welfare. We thank SISD Trustees for listening to the heartfelt real stories of SISD employees!

### SEA MAKING IT HAPPEN!!

**Whatever Happened to:** SISD Convocations, the only time that one got to see old friends and comrades. Although a long ride for those easterners to travel to Socorro High, it was about the only time one would travel to the lower valley, to pass by the older part of our region and visit the original first SISD high school. Some would call it a waste of time and money to hire a motivational speaker to kick off another school year. Some would call it a positive preparation of the mind and of course tradition. What is your perception?



# *A DAY IN THE LIFE OF..*

Every morning when you step into a classroom or a school building there is a sense of freshness and orderliness. The desks are clean, the trashcans empty, who beautified my classroom, the halls, the exterior? Well obviously we are speaking of our wonderful custodians. Sylvia a custodian at James P. Butler, is contracted through a temporary service, due to budget cutbacks; SISD does utilize temporary services to alleviate costs. I did not delve too deeply into her private life but did find out she has children and the temporary position is a first for her. I decided to shadow her to best highlight the importance of our custodial staff and how they affect the school environment. Sylvia must perform a multitude of job responsibilities on a daily basis. There were many chemicals used to refresh and keep bacteria and viruses at bay. Sylvia brings her own cloths to wipe down equipment and furniture, she has tricks up her sleeve to perform her job in an efficient and timely manner. Sylvia must clean a total of 15 classrooms, 2 large student bathrooms plus 2 teacher bathrooms. I helped her clean low kinder desktops, to my chagrin my waist started to hurt from bending quite low from the waist to get to the tiny desks and tables. I cleaned sinks, vacuumed, and scrubbed crayons and pencil graphite from desks, chairs and the floor. She further explained that everything must be detailed, she breaks up her detailed responsibilities on top on what is required daily throughout the week to be able to finish by 11:00 p.m. To say the least, I was exhausted and could not continue further. The importance of our custodians work is vital to the welfare of all our community. Without them the preservation of our clean and continued up keep of our new and restoration of our older buildings would be unsuccessful. Next time you see a custodian, thank them for all they do in keeping our buildings beautiful and our children safe from viruses, bacteria, and bugs.



## **NEA (NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION)**

Vote is 'important step,' but NEA will be watching Wi-Fi program to ensure equity  
WASHINGTON - July 11, 2014 -

The National Education Association lauded today's vote by the Federal Communication Commission on reforms "to modernize" E-Rate, a program intended to support communications services for schools and libraries nationwide as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The E-Rate Program aims to provide discounts to assist schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access, in order to meet President Obama's call for 99 percent of all classrooms to be connected to broadband. NEA, which represents 3 million teachers and other educators working in America's public schools, joined more than a dozen national advocacy organizations expressing strong and unequivocal concerns with the FCC's original proposed changes, but worked toward a compromised plan that will continue to support students in geographically isolated rural and high-poverty urban areas.

The following statement can be attributed to NEA President Dennis Van Roekel:

"Today's vote by the Federal Communication Commission to preserve the ongoing Internet connectivity in America's schools and libraries is a win for students. There were initial concerns with the originally proposed changes attempting to modernize the E-Rate Program that could have harmed the very students it was designed to help and only widen the increasingly large technology gap. We applaud the Chairman and the Commission for listening to the concerns of educators in devising a final proposal that will connect all students to the Internet, including those in rural and high-poverty urban areas. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FOLLOW THE LINK: <http://www.nea.org/home/59738.htm>

# **Texas State Teachers Association (TSTA)**

## **Ronnie Ray ESP Advocate of the Year Award (Deadline: first Monday in March)**

Each year one Education Support Professional (ESP) receives the Ronnie Ray ESP of the Year Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to their schools, communities, and profession. The ESP of the Year serves as an ambassador for Education Support Professionals around the state, promoting the value of ESP members. Nominations are accepted and encouraged from each local affiliate and each region is required to select one nominee to submit to the state ESP Committee. As of January 15, nominees must be a TSTA Educational Support Professional member (for three years) whose activities reflect contributions to public education and show outstanding accomplishments. The region's nominee should follow the ESP Award Guidelines.



## **TSTA WANTS YOU TO GET INVOLVED: CRUCIAL IN EDUCATION**

The November election is critical to Texas public schools and the educators, support staff, and students who work and learn on our campuses and in our classrooms. TSTA is supporting Wendy Davis for Governor and Leticia Van de Putte for Lt. Governor because they have a proven record of fighting for us in the Texas Senate. And their records are far superior to their opponents, who have supported devastating school funding cuts, vouchers, and privatization. Many TSTA members have asked us how they can get involved in the effort to elect our endorsed "education candidates." Battleground Texas is organizing neighborhood teams to get the message out in every Texas community, neighbor to neighbor. With two candidates who are stressing the importance of education in their campaigns, TSTA members can play an important role by volunteering whatever time you have to be part of a neighborhood team in your community.

For TSTA, this is about more than just this fall's election. By volunteering for a neighborhood team, you get practical community organizing experience and build relationships in your community that will help local TSTA efforts when we are working to elect school board candidates who will work with us.

Signing up for a neighborhood team is easy. Simply use this link to sign up, and we'll get a Battleground Texas neighborhood team leader in touch with you. <https://tsta.wufoo.com/forms/yes>.



# 2014-2015 SISD Calendar

Socorro Independent School District  
Leading • Inspiring • Innovating

August/agosto 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
July	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September/septiembre 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October/octubre 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November/noviembre 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

December/diciembre 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January/enero 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February/febrero 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March/marzo 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April/abril 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May/mayo 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June/junio 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July/julio 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## July

- 21- 25.....Staff Development Days
- 26.....Teacher Work Day
- 28.....1st Nine Weeks Begins

## August

- 27.....Staff Development
- Early Release (Students Only)

## September

- 1.....Labor Day Holiday
- Staff Development
- 24.....Early Release (Students Only)
- 29 - Oct 10.....Fall Intersession for Students

## October

- 13.....2nd Nine Weeks Begins
- 29.....Early Release (Students Only)
- Staff Development
- 31.....Tentative FMNV Exempt Day

## November

- 10.....Veteran's Day Holiday
- 24-28.....Thanksgiving Break

## December

- 19.....Early Release (Teachers & Students)
- Tentative FMNV Exempt Day
- 22-Jan. 6.....Winter Break

## January

- 1.....New Year's Day
- 5.....Staff Development
- 6.....3rd Nine Weeks Begins
- 19.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 28.....Early Release (Students Only)
- Staff Development

## February

- 13.....Tentative FMNV Exempt Day

## March

- 9 - 20.....Spring Intersession for Students
- 23.....4th Nine Weeks Begins

## April

- 3.....Good Friday Holiday

## May

- 25.....Memorial Day Holiday
- 29.....Early Release (Teachers & Students)
- Tentative FMNV Exempt Day
- Last Day of School
- High School Graduations
- 30.....Teacher Work Day
- High School Graduations

## Teacher Inservice/Workdays

- 6 Staff Development Days
- 2 Workdays

## Instructional Days

- Fall: 88
- Spring: 91

\*State Assessment Dates subject to change by TEA, log on to [www.tea.state.tx.us](http://www.tea.state.tx.us)

Legend	
○ Incent Weather Make Up Days	▶ Beginning of Nine Weeks
■ In Session	◀ End of Nine Weeks
■ Intersession	■ Early Release - Students
■ Holidays/District Closure	■ Early Release - Students & Teachers
■ Staff Development	■ State Assessment Test Day
■ Teacher Work Day	■ TELPAS Testing Window

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The Socorro Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs, activity or employment.

Revised June 24, 2014		2014–2015 STUDENT ASSESSMENT TESTING CALENDAR		DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE	
Detailed information regarding the scheduling and administration of specific STAAR assessments can be found on the Coordinator Manual Resources webpage at <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/manuals/dccm/</a> .					
Test Date(s)	STAAR Alternate			Report Date(s)	
Assessment Window Feb 9–Feb 20	STAAR Alternate (grades 3–8 and EOC)			Date TBD	
<b>TAKS</b>					
Mar 2 (Mon)	Exit Level ELA			By April 17, 2015	
Mar 3 (Tues)	Exit Level Mathematics				
Mar 4 (Wed)	Exit Level Science				
Mar 5 (Thur)	Exit Level Social Studies				
<b>TELPAS</b>					
Assessment Window Mar 16–Apr 8	Grades K–12 TELPAS Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing			By May 15, 2015	
<b>STAAR</b>					
Mar 30 (Mon)	Grade 4 Writing Day 1 Grade 7 Writing Day 1 Grade 5 Mathematics Grade 8 Mathematics English I			Grades 4 and 7 Writing by May 20, 2015 Grades 5 and 8 Mathematics by April 20, 2015 English I by June 5, 2015	
Mar 31 (Tues)	Grade 4 Writing Day 2 Grade 7 Writing Day 2 Grade 5 Reading Grade 8 Reading			Grades 4 and 7 Writing by May 20, 2015 Grades 5 and 8 Reading by April 20, 2015	
Apr 1 (Wed)	English II			By June 5, 2015	
Apr 3 (Fri)	All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Mar 30–Apr 1, 2015, must be completed by the end of this day.				

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Test Date(s)	STAAR			Report Date(s)	
Apr 21 (Tues)	Grades 3–4 Mathematics Grades 6–7 Mathematics Grade 8 Social Studies			By May 20, 2015	
Apr 22 (Wed)	Grades 3–4 Reading Grades 6–7 Reading Grade 5 Science Grade 8 Science			By May 20, 2015	
Apr 24 (Fri)	All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from Apr 21–22, 2015, must be completed by the end of this day.				
<b>STAAR</b>					
Assessment Window May 4–May 8	Algebra I Biology U.S. History			By June 5, 2015	
<b>STAAR</b>					
May 12 (Tues)	Grade 5 Reading (retest) Grade 8 Reading (retest)			By June 1, 2015	
May 15 (Fri)	All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered on May 12, 2015, must be completed by the end of this day.				



**If you have a story you would like to share with us, please contact our office at 915-849-9925.**

**We love to highlight our members accomplishments.**