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100Years

Area7 Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2, Jan 2009

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Words of Wisdom

Do We Listen? Or Are We Already Listening To What We Want To Hear?

Area 7's Commitment to You:

To strengthen the partnership between Area, Council and Local PTAs; To build the relationship by being accessible and respectful; To communicate effectively and collaborate with our members; To increase visibility and resources within Area 7 PTA; To exemplify Integrity!

Things I have heard through the years!

- *A closed mind, like a closed room, can become awfully stuffy!
- *There is a big difference between free speech and cheap talk.
- *Each time you listen--you give someone else a chance to be heard.
- *The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.
- *People in glass houses should not throw large stones or their house will come tumbling down.
- *What comes around, goes around.
- *In leading, remember that different people react differently to things.
- *I have learned that my children watch me more and hear me less.
- *Honesty and Integrity go hand in hand. The problem is that it has become lost in the shuffle of day to day life.
- *Integrity means giving your word and having your word stand for something.
- ".....only we can choose our attitudes." from Welcome the Rain by Michelle Sedas

Robert Fulgham said it best in his book, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. “The basic rules are “Share, play fair, don’t hit people. Put things back where you found them, clean up your mess, don’t take things that are not yours, say you are sorry when you hurt someone, wash your hands before you eat, and flush. Warm cookies and milk are good for you, live a balanced life-learn some and think some and draw, paint, sing, dance, play and work every day some. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.”

Mysteries of Life.....Why do people believe that pushing an elevator button several times will make the car come quicker? It amazes me that people can see a sign that says “dead end” or “stop”, and they still continue on down that road anyway. You probably read the sign at least 3 times before you got to it. You even looked for a way to go around it, as if they were not telling you the truth or that the sign did not apply to you. Then you notice the small print. So we drive up to it, read it, and then get angry that it says something like, “**Why are you here? The sign said dead end!**”

FACT: It takes saying something more than five times for a person to actually perceive and understand what was told to them. It also takes 25 days of repetition for someone to change their habits.

FACT: We have a problem not just with change, listening, and following directions, but with society in general. Everyone is out for number one. There is very little integrity, honesty and compassion for others.

*We try to teach our children and discipline them to respect others, listen to words, and follow directions. As adults, we know that children learn from examples. So what do we say to our children when we don’t follow the rules, read the instructions, respect the laws, communicate effectively, and show respect for another human being?

*When was the last time you went through the cafeteria line at work or at the hospital visiting a friend? Waited in line at the grocery store or for that matter a basketball game, or waited to go around a traffic accident? Did you wait patiently or did you become irritated? If you became irritated, how would you feel if you were the one in the accident or the grocery clerk whose register jammed? If we are to judge, then we should first put ourselves in their shoes and ask all the right questions. This is part of building a team being able to lead by example and look at what we are doing first and then look outward. The best leader is the one who has the sense to surround himself with winning people. –Unknown Learn more about team building leadership at Area 7 Annual Spring meeting.



National PTA President Jan Harp Domene’s visit to Northside ISD Founders Day happened because one person, Evelyn Thomas, dared to invite her. And she said, “Yes!”

NOMINATING COMMITTEES

Even though the school year is only half over, it's time to look ahead to the elections for the 2009-2010 school year. One key preparation is the election of a Nominating Committee. According to Local PTA bylaws Article VIII, Section 3.a, "There shall be a Nominating Committee elected by the general body at a regular meeting at least one month prior to the election of officers."

Forming your Nominating Committee

- ✓ Refer to Article X, Section 1.b to see which month is designated as the election month for your PTA to ensure you elect your Nominating Committee within the required time period.
- ✓ Check your bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3.a, to see how many members and alternates need to be on the Nominating Committee.
- ✓ At the Nominating Committee election meeting, call for nominees. (It is permissible for people to self-nominate themselves, aka volunteer.) Elect the nominees as a whole committee.
- ✓ The newly elected Nominating Committee should meet immediately following the meeting to elect its own chairman and alternate chairman and set the date, time, and location of the first Committee meeting. Be sure to exchange contact information and give it to the PTA secretary!
- ✓ If a member of the Committee will not be able to make the first meeting, the first alternate takes that person's place at that and all other subsequent meetings.

Nominating Committee Duties and Guidelines Prior to the Election Meeting

- ✓ The Committee solicits suggested nominees for each bylaws-indicated *elected* office. (Each Local PTA will have different officers listed. Check out Article VII, Section 2, in your local bylaws for your list of officers.) Remember, the Parliamentarian and Historian are NOT elected positions, even though they are officers. *Also note, the Nominating Committee does not find people to fill the positions of chairmen of standing committees. Parliamentarian, Historian, and Chairmen are appointed by the President.*
- ✓ The chairman of the Nominating Committee is responsible for calling the potential nominees to discuss a nominee's interest and answer questions about the position in question. The chairperson may also assign a Committee member to help with the calling.
- ✓ The Committee is responsible for finding one and nominating exactly one person for each office. (Don't just look for "warm bodies" to fill the positions, though!)
- ✓ If a nominee is not found for a position, then nominations are taken from the floor at the election meeting.
- ✓ Each member of the Committee may submit names for consideration.
- ✓ Members of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for a position on the Board without having to step down from the Committee. However, during the discussion of the nominees for that position, the considered Committee member must leave the room.
- ✓ Make sure the nominee understands the duties of the office and has time to devote to them. *Don't tell them, "Oh, it's not much work at all."* Be honest!
- ✓ Nominees should be members of the Local PTA for whose board they are being nominated *prior to taking office.*
- ✓ If a nominee resigns before the election, then the Nominating Committee meets again to try to name a nominee for the position.
- ✓ A majority of the Nominating Committee need to agree on the slate. If a person does not agree with the slate, he/she should not sign the Nominating Committee report (sample report-page 241 in PTA Handbook).
- ✓ The Nominating Committee report of the slate of nominees should be presented to the Executive Board prior to presenting it to the general membership. The Board does not *approve* the slate of officers, they simply *accept* the report.
- ✓ The deliberations of the Nominating Committee are confidential! (See page 243 in the PTA Handbook for a sample Confidentiality Agreement.)
- ✓ Once the slate of officers has been approved by the Nominating Committee, the slate is *not* confidential. According to Article VIII, Section 3.b, in your local bylaws, "The report shall be publicized to the Local PTA membership through regular publicity channels at least seven (7) days before the election meeting." It is a courtesy to let the president know the slate before it is posted.

Duties and Guidelines at the Election Meeting

- ✓ The Nominating Committee Chairman reads the report and hands the report to the president who reads the report again and conducts the election. (But that's another article!)
- ✓ A member of the Nominating Committee may not nominate someone from the floor at the general meeting if he/she signed the Committee report, which meant that they agreed with the slate of officers the Committee recommended.
- ✓ After the election, the Nominating Committee's duties are over.



NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE ISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

Greetings to each and every one of you!

The Local PTAs within Northside are doing tremendous work for our children, and at our regular Council meeting in November a few of our Locals got a chance to share their success stories with those in attendance.

Bob Beard Elementary told us how they improve teacher morale by offering them goodies such as Starbucks coffee. (Little gestures of kindness go a long way.)

O'Connor High School sponsored their "Learning at Lunch" Series by encouraging the students to bring their lunch to eat while listening on separate occasions to presentations by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and the League of Women Voters. They also had a Rock the Vote event at which they registered the eligible students to vote.

Brauchle Elementary and Monroe May Elementary both worked towards fulfilling PTA's Vision of making every child's potential a reality by hosting health and fitness fairs. Brauchle also shared their ideas for increasing their membership numbers as did Raba Elementary and Murnin Elementary. Northside had a large number of schools who increased their membership numbers by 10% or more due, in a very large part I'm sure, to the energy and sense of community exhibited by their board and general members.

Helotes Elementary announced that they participated for the very first time in the Penny Drive benefitting the NISD Council of PTAs Jack C. Jordan Scholarship. They were quite successful. It's always exciting to hear about schools trying new things. Murnin Elementary also had a successful Penny Drive this year.

Powell Elementary addressed one of the Purposes of PTA: *To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.* They hosted a Family Casa Night that was extremely well attended. Another example of building that sense of community.

Jefferson Middle School and Carson Elementary both addressed the age-old question of how to get people to volunteer. In Jefferson's second year, they have increased their number of volunteers to over 100....and they show up! Awesome, especially for a middle school. Carson hosts a Kiddie Corral at school to enable the parents who have small children a chance to volunteer as well.

Knowlton Elementary hosted a *Fill the Backpack* drive that enabled them to give each graduating 5th grade student a backpack filled with supplies to help them start their middle school career.

And lastly, Stinson Middle School is taking advantage of today's technology by utilizing their PTA webpage that is linked to the school website. Parents are able to access forms, surveys, volunteer opportunities, and much more on their site.

There are so many more PTAs within Northside that work tirelessly for our students and have success stories of their own, but time constraints within the meeting only allowed for a few. We are better and more effective because of the knowledge we share with each other and we will continue to share our success stories.

If you would like additional information on any of these events and programs, feel free to contact me at sjweit@aol.com. I'll put you in touch with that PTA's president.

Jody Weitman
President
NISD Council of PTAs

you need more information and guidelines on Nominating Committees, feel free to contact your Council President or Area 7 President, Lois Pearson.

– submitted by Jody Weitman, President, NISD Council of PTAs

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UPCOMING TEXAS PTA CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Texas PTA Day at the Capitol Austin February 26, 2009

100th Annual Convention Austin February 27 – March 1, 2009

Centennial Celebration at the State Fair of Texas
Dallas October 18, 2009

Texas PTA Day at the Capitol February 26, 2009

Come be part of history on February 26, 2009 as we all meet at the Capitol in Austin to celebrate the 100th birthday of Texas PTA, celebrate our 100 years of advocacy, and prepare to meet with legislators as we usher in the next 100 years.

February 2009

- Confirm bus reservations, if you are using them.
- Confirm appointments with legislators around February 23rd.
- Plan your meeting agenda per guidelines provided by Texas PTA for meetings with legislators.
- Send an estimate of the size of your group to the State Office.

Annual Spring Meeting

Spring is just around the corner, so....*Mark your calendars now* for the **Area 7 PTA Annual Spring Meeting** to be held Saturday, **April 18, 2009**, hosted by Area 7 and its 9 Councils. This is our annual meeting where you will learn new things and elect 2009-2010 officers to the Area 7 PTA Board. **True Colors will be presented by Sylvia Ostos**; Come bring your whole board for a great team building experience and learn how to work together. **A special Representative of Texas PTA** will be on hand. Your Council Presidents will present workshops on **President and Treasurer (for both 1st and 2nd Year), and Secretary**. Additional workshops are also being planned. Come network with leaders from all over Area 7 and Texas PTA. Get a jump start on getting ready for the next year. It is affordable training that is close to home and presented by Area 7 its 9 councils and Texas PTA Board members. **Look for more information in *the Call to Conference* packets coming soon!**

It will be The Happening Place to be!

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Texas 2009-10 PTA Membership Theme Art Contest

Students in Grades Pre-K through 12 may enter visual arts or photography to illustrate the 2009-2010

Texas PTA Membership Theme:

"It Was a Good Idea Then...It's a Better Idea Now"

The winning entry may be used all over Texas to recruit PTA members during the 2009-2010 Membership year. Gift certificates of \$100, \$50, and \$25 have been donated by Barnes and Noble for the top three winners.

http://www.txpta.org/members/Membership/PTA_MEMBERSHIP_THEME_ART_CONTEST_RULES_AND_FORM_EDITED1.pdf

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**Texas PTA Web site**  
[www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

As the official Web site for the Texas PTA this can be a great source of information for you and your Area PTA.



All the major forms for awards and officer submissions are available. Many are in a PDF format, which requires Adobe Acrobat to view. Instructions are available on the Web site for downloading the free program. Local and Council officers can submit their information through an online submission form. *The Voice* subscriptions and donations can also be placed online. As the Web site is constantly changing, make it your homepage or bookmark it so that you can check it often.

## **Area 7 PTA Slate of Officers**

The Area 7 PTA Nominating Committee nominees for 2009-2010 are:

- President Lois Pearson
- Vice-president Kaye Lucas
- Secretary Adela Segovia

The 2009-2010 Area 7 PTA Officers will be elected at the Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday April 18, 2009.

Anyone wishing to run for an office from the floor, in accordance with Area 7 Rules and Texas PTA bylaws, must submit their name and a short bio 45 days in advance of the Annual Spring meeting scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>, making them due by February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Names may be forwarded by phone or email to the President, Lois Pearson, at 210-860-2654 or [asq4more@att.net](mailto:asq4more@att.net). Submission form (see next page) must be filled out as well.

# AREA 7

## Notice of Intent to Run From the Floor 2009-2010

Dear Area President:

Please consider this my official notification of my intent to run from the floor at the Area Spring Meeting/Election for the position of \_\_\_\_\_.

I understand I may be contacted for additional information.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

Daytime telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Evening telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

I am a current member of \_\_\_\_\_ PTA

***This form must be returned to: Lois Pearson, Area 7 President, no later than February 28, 2009  
(45 days prior to Area election)***

## TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

### **GPA Plan's Approval Postponed:**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board will not vote on a revised plan for Uniform Grade Point Average calculation for the top 10% college admissions consideration until at least January 2009. Commissioner Paredes' new version of the proposal contains the following provisions:

- The method for calculating a uniform GPA for public university admissions will begin with students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade on or after **May 1, 2009**;
- All academic courses in the Recommended High School Program (RHSP) will be used in calculating the GPA regardless of when the course was taken (ex: Algebra I courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- On a 4.0 scale, a weight of 1.0 will apply to Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and academic dual-credit courses, including career-oriented courses listed in the THECB's Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual; \*High-school career and technical education (CTE) courses aligned with university programs of study will be counted for GPA purposes; examples of these courses would include, accounting, agriculture, architecture, business computer information, criminal justice, engineering, forestry, home economics, kinesiology, etc.
- Pre-AP and pre-IB courses will be weighed at 0.50; within 4 year, all pre-AP courses will be expected to meet "Laying the Foundation" or comparable standards, and pre-IB courses will be expected to be a part of the school's or district's IB program; (Laying the Foundation – is a project funded in large by the Michael and Susan Dell grant to support teachers as they prepare students in grades 6 thru 11 to excel in AP and other college level courses.)
- A 15 member "GPA Advisory Committee" will be created by the coordinating board. It will have representatives from public education, higher education and the workforce sectors. The committee will oversee the implementation of the GPA standards, develop a GPA conversion model and make adjustments in the courses counted in the GPA calculation as curricula in high schools and universities change. Pre-AP/pre-IB courses and dual credit courses would undergo a 4-year review, to be monitored by the GPA Advisory Committee, with possible GPA-related revisions made in the 5 year. Paredes' overall goal is to boost college-readiness levels of Texas graduating seniors. Next step is to assemble the GPA advisory committee, further discussion by the THECB (possibly in Dec.) and consideration by the full THECB at the board's January 2009 meeting. This proposal could be further delayed and/or modified due to actions taken by the Legislature.

### **Science TEKS Revisions:**

TEA is accepting public comment on the proposed TEKS revisions for science courses and 2 new courses – Earth/Space Science and Engineering. Information is available at [www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/scienceTEKS.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/scienceTEKS.html). The TEKS revisions are the product of a science review committee consisting of State Board of Education (SBOE)-nominated educators, parents, business and industry representatives who have worked on this project since January 2008. The subject of evolution has resulted in much debate between critics and supporters. The draft recommends removing current TEKS that require the examination of the weaknesses of Darwin's theory of evolution and would keep teachers from discussing creationism and theories of intelligent design.

### **School Nutrition:**

Todd Staples, Texas Agriculture Commissioner, announced that the Texas Dept. of Agriculture plans to put all of the school-nutrition rules through the state's formal rule adoption process soon. This would eliminate past practices by the agency of suddenly announcing that new school-nutrition regulations had been adopted without prior warning or opportunities to comment. This change was recommended in a recent state Sunset review of the Dept. and would help prevent TDA from acting without stakeholder input in respect to any school-nutrition rule adoptions.

### **\$7 Billion Saved in Tax Relief**

A Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (TTARA) study concludes that although the 2006 tax reform/relief measures taken by the Texas Legislature saved taxpayers the \$7 billion in school tax relief promised in legislation, many taxpayers have not noticed. Without the legislation passed in HB 1, school taxes would have increased by \$4.7 billion. Instead school taxes declined by \$2.3 billion, leading to the \$7 billion tax savings. Study says that property tax relief was not as noticeable as expected for several reasons:

- Nearly all school districts have exercised their local authority to increase tax rates above the state-mandated 1/3 reduction;
- local voters have approved additional debt service taxes to improve their school facilities;
- property values continue to rise;
- city, county and special district taxes have continued to increase.

### **Automated External Defibrillators Are Getting Good Use by School Districts:**

A UIL survey shows that 4% of Texas school districts have used their automated external defibrillators (AED) on students, parents and/or visitors to campuses and school events. This survey was sent out to UIL-member 1A to 3A ISD superintendents and principals of UIL 4A & 5A high schools. 800 out of 1,200 surveys were returned, a

# Vera Bullion Memorial Award

The Vera Bullion Memorial Award is presented at the Area 7 Spring Conference to a local unit or council PTA for an outstanding program or project that implements the Objects of PTA. Entries will be judged by the Vera Bullion Award Committee.

The Vera Bullion Memorial Award was established to honor a wonderful woman. Vera was an active member of PTA and served in many capacities, including San Antonio Council of PTAs President, District 20 (now our Area 7) PTA President, and Texas Regional Vice President. She is best remembered for her kind words, gentle nature, warm smile, and a saying or quotation for any occasion. She treated everyone with respect and practiced inclusivity before it became an issue. Vera is no longer with us, but we will continue to honor her memory with the Vera Bullion Memorial Award.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF ENTRY:**

1. The entry will be composed of three sections:
  - a. A statement that discusses how the program or project implemented one or more of the Objects of PTA. This statement will be no more than 2 pages long, double spaced. Front and back will be counted as one page.
  - b. Any Photographs of the program or project. The photographs may include captions. You may include up to 10 pages of pictures. Front and back will be counted as one page. Two (2) pages (back to back) in a sleeve will be counted as one page.
  - c. Supplemental materials should be placed in one sleeve. This may include programs, brochures, fliers, etc.
2. The program or project must have been presented and/or implemented by your PTA. It must have been or will be completed by the end of the current school year.
3. The entry shall not exceed 12 pages plus the one sleeve.
4. The entry form must be included but will not be counted as one of the 12 pages. The backside of the form should be left blank.
5. Entry shall be submitted in a 3 ring binder. Binder may have an identifying sheet on the outside pocket, which will not count toward the 10 pages.
6. Entry may be mailed to the committee member listed below or may be given to council president, if in a council. If given to council president, they will be responsible for turning in the entry by the deadline. The deadline for mailed entries is below. The deadline for entries that are hand delivered to the committee will be the date of the pre-conference board meeting.
7. All entrees must be picked up by Council President or designated person by the end of the Spring Conference. Projects not picked up may be discarded.

***Mail entries, postmarked by April 2, 2009 to:***

Adela R. Segovia

123 Caldwell, San Antonio, TX 78223

Phone: 210-532-9164

Email – [queenadela@sbcglobal.net](mailto:queenadela@sbcglobal.net)



Vera Bullion  
Memorial Award  
Entry Form

PTA/PTSA Name \_\_\_\_\_

Council Name (if in a council) \_\_\_\_\_

School District \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

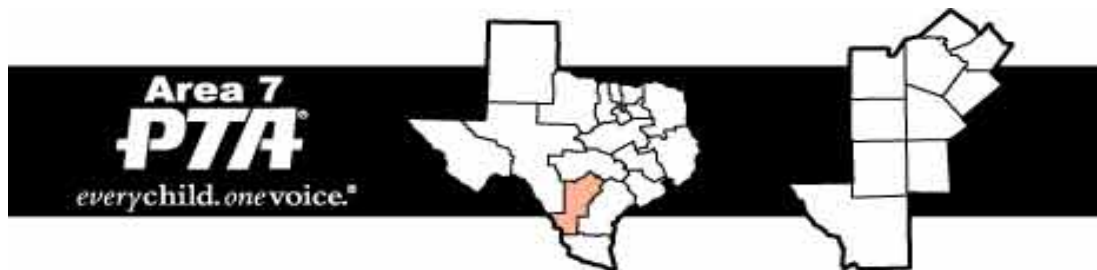
Person submitting entry \_\_\_\_\_

Position in your PTA \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>For Area 7 Records:</i></p> <p><i>Date received:</i> _____</p> <p><i>By:</i> _____</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



Area PTA 7 Newsletter is published three times per year – Look for more information soon!

**Area 7 Board of Directors**

**\*\*NEW e-mail** President: Lois Pearson [asg4more@att.net](mailto:asg4more@att.net)  
 Vice President: Adela Segovia [queenadela@sbcglobal.net](mailto:queenadela@sbcglobal.net)  
 Secretary: Kathy Miesse [socket@stic.net](mailto:socket@stic.net)  
 Area Field Service Representatives:  
 Carolyn Braden [carolynbraden@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynbraden@hotmail.com)  
 Kim De Cock [f4k@aol.com](mailto:f4k@aol.com)  
*We have Area Field Service Representative Positions open*  
 Historian: Evelyn Thomas [emthomas66@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emthomas66@sbcglobal.net)  
 Hospitality: Stephanie Regets [sregets@satx.rr.com](mailto:sregets@satx.rr.com)

**Council Presidents**

| Council          | Presidents Name  | Email                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comal ISD        | Julie Whitaker   | <a href="mailto:rockinw@gvfc.com">rockinw@gvfc.com</a>                                                                             |
| East Central ISD | Emily De Leon    | <a href="mailto:emily.deleon@fc.ecisd.net">emily.deleon@fc.ecisd.net</a><br><a href="mailto:UXCattle@aol.com">UXCattle@aol.com</a> |
| Edgewood ISD     | Verónica Aguilar | <a href="mailto:vhaquilar@eisd.net">vhaquilar@eisd.net</a>                                                                         |
| Harlandale ISD   | Kaye Lucas       | <a href="mailto:Virginia.Lucas@harlandale.net">Virginia.Lucas@harlandale.net</a>                                                   |
| North East ISD   | Lisa Kuglen      | <a href="mailto:jskuglen@juno.com">jskuglen@juno.com</a>                                                                           |
| New Braunfels    | Anne Buck        | <a href="mailto:abuck@satx.rr.com">abuck@satx.rr.com</a>                                                                           |
| Northside ISD    | Jody Weitman     | <a href="mailto:sjweit@aol.com">sjweit@aol.com</a>                                                                                 |
| San Antonio ISD  | Margaret Placek  | <a href="mailto:wowi_placek@att.net">wowi_placek@att.net</a>                                                                       |
| Southwest ISD    | Lillian Briones  | <a href="mailto:lbriones@cuellarandassociates.com">lbriones@cuellarandassociates.com</a>                                           |
|                  |                  |                                                                                                                                    |

**Communication is stitched together with Inspiration and Action in Area 7**

*We are here to help with whatever needs you have. Please feel free to contact us.*

*Thank you for all that you do!*

*Lois Pearson, Area 7 President, and the Area 7 Board*