

## Summary of OCTOBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

OCTOBER 29, 2021

The October Board of Director's meeting was called to order at 10:19 a.m. on October 29, 2021.

### Special Guest

Lena Wilson, the Assistant Commissioner for the Food and Nutrition Division at the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), shared updates on the following topics:

- Reauthorization has been the focus at TDA recently. They are working towards universal free meals. It is possible that the factor used for the Community Eligibility Program (CEP) would go up from 1.6 to 2.5 and the threshold would decrease from 40% to a 25% standard.
- Flexibilities for the meal pattern are being discussed with USDA related to sodium and whole grains. Lena encouraged us to share comments about the interim rule in writing at the regulations.gov website, if we have any concerns.
- Supply chain issues were reviewed. TDA is trying to determine how to help. Texas actually has fewer problems than some states. We can use emergency procurement if we keep all documentation.
- Texas has opted into all flexibilities offered by USDA, including meal patterns.
- TDA is trying to help us with P-EBT implementation. In November 2021, summer P-EBT will be released to households.
- The Administrative Review schedule was recently approved to be shifted to a four year cycle from a three year and all reviews will be done at once, including financial and procurement.
- TDA is working with Education Service Centers (ESC) to improve requirements for the staff and effectiveness of their service. The audit reminder binder is going to be prepared again.

### Report of Officers

- President, Sharon Glosson, thanked all for their attendance, especially at this time.
- All other Executive Committee members shared encouragement and stated they had each turned in their reports.

### Electronic Vote

Since the last meeting in June, the Board had passed five motions by electronic vote.

### Treasurer's Report

The financial statement was given by Secretary/Treasurer, Susan D'Amico.

### Chair of Area Representative's Report

Chair of Area Representative's, Michelle Skiles, stated that we have 12 areas that need representatives but only three are on the Board now. She invited people to consider becoming an area representative.

### Reports of Standing Committees

All standing committee members had turned in reports and shared comments.

### Reports of Other Committees

Industry Committee Chairperson, Mary Ellen Cote, stated that it has been the worst year ever for industry with price increases and supply chain issues. Three motions were brought forth from the Industry Committee:

- 1) That the industry party for the 2022 conference in Fort Worth will be held at Billy Bob's,
- 2) That the price will increase by \$100 per booth for the 2023 TASN conference, and
- 3) Effective for the 2023 conference, brokers with 15 or more booths will get to make booth selections prior to the general public.

Chair of Public Policy and Legislation Committee, Maggie Mae Kennedy, encouraged members to try being an area representative. She also encouraged members to attend LAC, if they could.

#### Nominating Committee

The deadline to complete nominations was extended through December 31, 2021. If any member is interested, they need to let them know, as we have many openings.

#### Unfinished Business

A drawing was held for any Board member who had not attended LAC before. Lacy Willey's name was selected. The runner up selected was Victoria Ybarra.

#### New Business

The Board unanimously passed the motion to approve Joy Peters with Pecos Barstow Toyah ISD to finish the term as the area 7 representative.

The Board also unanimously passed the three motions from the Industry Committee.

#### Announcements

- The next Board meeting will be held in Austin at the Fairmont in February 2022
- The TASN Partnership Collaboration Summit meeting will follow on February 16-18, 2022 in Austin.
- The next annual TASN Conference will be June 26-28, 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan D'Amico  
TASN Secretary/Treasurer 2021-2022