

Moving Forward;
Making a
Difference Since
1985



Objectives for Today's Session



1. Provide a brief overview of what the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) is, its history, and purpose
2. Briefly describe the structure of TSHL offices and committees and its connection to the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) regions
3. Describe how the TSHL affects change for aging Texans
4. Highlight TSHL accomplishments for aging Texans

What is the TSHL?

- A volunteer, non-partisan, statewide organization of advocates operating without public funds
- Authorized in 1985 by the 69th Texas Legislature under Governor Mark White
- Elected and appointed for two-year term
- 123 volunteers aged 60 and over representing older Texans from across the 28 Texas Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)



Please see the attached TSHL Brochure, the AAA Map showing the 28 AAA regions in Texas, and the listing of AAA directors and their contact information.

TSHL PURPOSE & GOALS

The TSHL purpose and six goals center around Senior welfare and range from motivation and education to the provision of an open discussion forum for Seniors.

The objective of these six goals is to realize the passage of TSHL priorities in the Texas Legislature.



TSHL VISION STATEMENT



The vision of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy, and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, and involvement in legislation and governmental affairs.

THE VOICE OF AGING IN TEXAS



- **Involved and committed to community organizations**
- **Speak at public events**
- **Conduct town hall meetings**
- **Listen to individuals**
- **Share stories**





Over the course of 37 years...an effective voice



- More than 700 Texans 60 and older have served as Texas Silver-Haired Legislators and have identified well over 900 issues concerning older adults in Texas that have impacted over 250 pieces of legislation.

The TSHL Structure - Offices and Committees

generally mirror those of the Texas House of Representatives

- **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**
 - Speaker
 - Speaker Pro Tem
 - Deputy Speaker Pro Tem
 - Secretary
 - Comptroller

- **COMMITTEES**
 - 6 Administrative
 - 8 Legislative Issues



From left to right: Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem; Bobette Doerrie, Secretary; Rhonda Rogers, Speaker; Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem; and Wayne Merrill, Comptroller

How TSHL Affects Change – State & Local

- Listen to concerns of older Texans
- Participate in Town Hall Meetings
- Identify public policy issues
- Research and become informed advocates
- Write, debate, adopt resolutions
- Prioritize the Top 10
- Inform State Legislators on concerns
- Testify at Senate and House committee hearings
- Locate sponsors and advocate for legislation related to adopted TSHL resolutions




How TSHL Affects Change - Continued




- Convene for the TSHL Legislative Session at the Capitol in the House Chamber – Refer to list of “*Top Ten*”
- Publish the *TSHL Legislative Report*
- Present Leg. Report to Governor, Lt. Governor, State Legislators, State Officials, AAAs, and Aging Network

To download the most current report, go to www.tshl.org, click on Advocacy, and then click on the 2021-2023 Legislative Report.

How TSHL Affects Change - Continued



**Legislative Session: May 1-5
We're Back Austin!**



**SILVER
BULLETIN**
19TH TSHL 2Q2022

FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature has had a busy and productive first quarter for 2022. Our members have been speaking to civic and community groups, hosting town hall meetings, and working with each other, agencies, organizations, and legislative staffers to research and draft resolutions on topics of great concern to older Texans.

Next month, May 2022, we will meet on the floor of the State Capitol as a body to deliberate, debate, and vote on these issues which will then be presented to the Texas Legislature in our biennial Legislative Report. An interim look at our proposed resolutions is included on page 2.

Enjoy this edition of the *Silver Bulletin*.

— Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

www.tshl.org

- Construct and maintain new and developing TSHL website www.tshl.org
- Publish the *Silver Bulletin* quarterly newsletter www.tshl.org, click on Resources, then *Silver Bulletin* Issues
- Contribute news articles to local newspapers
- Participate in local organizations

How TSHL Affects Change - Continued



- Publish and distribute the *TSHL Directory* - www.tshl.org, click on Directory
- Outreach to constituents, link constituents with AAAs, state agencies, providers, and rest of Aging Network as needed
- Communicate, network, advocate for ways to enhance the wellbeing of aging Texans



Recent
Accomplishments

2021 Texas Legislative Session—State Laws Enacted That Were Influenced by TSHL Advocacy



- Expand Telemedicine Law to Include Teledentistry
- Prevent Financial Abuse of Older Texans; Enhance TX Penal Code for Offenders
- Strengthen Rural Broadband Infrastructure
- Simplify Certification/Recertification Process for SNAP for Older Texans
- Allow Licensed Physicians to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis and Support Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis

2021 Texas Legislative Session—State Laws Enacted That Were Influenced by TSHL Advocacy, cont'd.



- Multiple laws supporting funding for ERS, TRS Pension, and TRS Care
- Maintain Funding for Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program
- Require Criminal Background Checks for CNAs and LVNs in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes
- Increase Access to Telemedicine for Older Adults
- Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans



TSHL Events and Activities

- 3 TSHL General Sessions, including Orientation, Training, and Legislative Session
- Quarterly Executive Committee Meetings
- TSHL Foundation Gala
- Senior Day at the Capitol
- Aging in Texas Conference
- TSHL Town Hall Meetings

For a Gallery of photos, dates and locations of upcoming Events go to www.tshl.org, and click on Events. Updated information is added regularly.

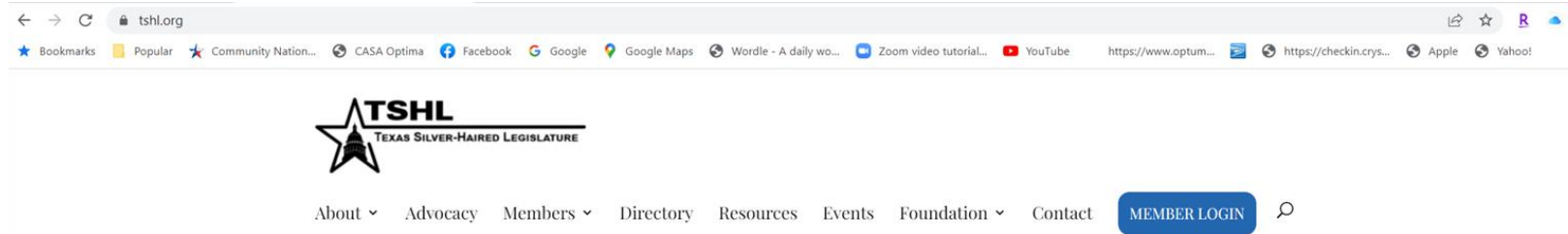
Area Agencies on Aging

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide services to help people ages 60 and older, their family members, and caregivers to receive the information and assistance they need in locating and accessing community services. Services include

- Information, Referral, and Assistance
- Benefits Counseling
- Ombudsman Program
- Care Coordination
- Caregiver Support
- Health and Wellness Promotion

A map of the AAA areas showing counties within each service area is attached along with a county listing by AAA and contact information of AAA Directors.

Official Website: www.tshl.org





TSHL

TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Interested in
becoming a TSHL
member?

Qualifications for election go to: www.tshl.org, click on About, then click on The Election Process

Contact your local AAA Director for details on the election/appointment process.

To find your local AAA go to:

<https://txregionalcouncil.org/regionalprograms/health-and-human-services/areaagencies-on-aging/>



TSHL

TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Our contact information:

Name Dr. Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem
Representative: Concho Valley AAA
Phone: 325-656-5859
Email: sherryhubb1@yahoo.com

Name: Sue S. Wilson, LMSW, TSHL LAC Chair
Representative: Capital Area AAA
Phone: 512-799-5043
Email: sueswilson.7@gmail.com



*Thank you for
your time and
attention.*



TOP 10 PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS

The 19th TSHL passed a total of fifty-four resolutions during the Legislative Session, May 2-5, 2022. The resolutions that follow ask the 88th Texas Legislature for specific actions to benefit older Texans. The 19th TSHL membership selected these “Top Ten” priorities as those most important to older Texans statewide:

- #1 –R003 - Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes**
- #2 –R041 - Child-Related Income Follows the Child**
- #3 –R046 - Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail Documentation to Reduce the Rejection Rate**
- #4 –R024 - Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Teacher Retirement System Retirees**
- #5 –R001 - Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes and Home Health Companies**
- #6 –R022 - Authorize a 13th Month Annuity Payment to Employees Retirement System (ERS) Retirees**
- #7 –R042 - Amend Family Code to Provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill**
- #8 –R037 - Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans**
- #9 –R008 - Establish Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)**
- #10 –R009 - Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans to \$10.00 with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy, and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, and involvement in legislation and governmental affairs.

There are approximately 5.5 million seniors 60 years and older living in Texas today. They are our constituents. TSHL identifies the issues and problems of our peers, develops problem-solving solutions, and advocates for adoption of these solutions by the Texas Legislature.

That's the mandate to us from the Governor and Legislature of Texas SCR 37, 69th Texas Legislature



Media creation by Barton Wilder Custom Images, Austin, TX

ORGANIZATION

Officers are elected from the membership for a two-year term.

Officers

- ★ Speaker, Rhonda Rogers, Ark-Tex
- ★ Speaker Pro Tem, Sherry Hubbard, Concho Valley
- ★ Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, Barbara Aydlett, Bexar
- ★ Secretary, Bobette Doerrie, Panhandle
- ★ Comptroller, Wayne Merrill, Concho Valley

Legislative Issue Committees & Chairs

- ★ Criminal Justice, Joe Henderson, N. Central Texas
- ★ Health & Human Resources, Paul Stempko, Capital
- ★ Human Services, Barbara Williams, Ark-Tex
- ★ Pensions, Investments, Insurance, and Financial Services (PIIFS), Gary Gerstenhaber, Capital
- ★ Retirement & Aging, Dan Roberts, N Central Texas
- ★ Rural-Urban, Sharon Brazeal, Texoma
- ★ State Affairs, Scott Christensen, Brazos Valley
- ★ Utilities & Natural Resources, Jerome Doerrie, Panhandle

Administrative Committees & Chairs

- ★ Communications, Linda Timmerman, Heart of Texas
- ★ Election & Credentials, Vacant
- ★ Finance, Fred Burrell, Jr., N. Central Texas
- ★ Operations, Joann Blackmon, South Plains
- ★ Legislative Action, Sue Wilson, Capital
- ★ Technology, Mike Taylor, Tarrant County

Support Committees & Chairs

- ★ Ethics, Mary Pat Smith, Capital
- ★ Memorial, Dolores Garcia, South Plains
- ★ Proposed Resolution Review Panel, Pat Porter, Permian Basin
- ★ Strategic Planning, Charles Scoma, Tarrant
- ★ Training, Betty Jo Brown, Harris County
- ★ *Silver Bulletin*, Editor – Vacant
- ★ Awards – Mary Nixon, Southeast Texas
- ★ Parliamentarian, Pat Porter, Permian Basin

19th TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE



Speaker

Rhonda Rogers
Paris, Texas

rrogersmaj@gmail.com

Advocating for Older Texans!

HISTORY

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was created by the 69th Texas Legislature with the adoption of SCR 37, April 3, 1985. The first Session was held in 1986 and has continued for 35+ years. Seniors 60 and over are elected to a 2-year term by their peers from 28 regions in Texas. Since 1985, more than 700 seniors have been elected legislators. TSHL is a total volunteer group with no paid staff or office; TSHL is not supported by State Funds.

The TSHL Foundation - The founders established the TSHL Foundation in 1985 as a non-profit (501(c)(3) agency to raise funds to support TSHL. Other resources come from individual members who finance their travel and other expenses. The Foundation actively solicits tax-deductible gifts, grants, and donations that will support the operational expenses of the TSHL Legislature for its training and orientation meetings and its research and policy-development activities.

**Sponsorships are available for the TSHL Foundation & Legislative Dinner
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Bullock Museum, Austin, Texas**

For information contact:
Dr. Elise Brazier, President, TSHLF
[Email: Elise.Brazier@concordia.edu](mailto:Elise.Brazier@concordia.edu)
Cell phone: 512-313-5308

To donate send a check or money order to:
TSHLF Bookkeeper
c/o Stockwell & Whitfield, CPAs
3006 Bee Cave Road, Ste. A218
Austin, TX 78746

PURPOSE/GOALS

Promote Good Government:

Motivate, engage, and educate older Texans in the legislative process

Encourage voice:

Inform and educate older Texans to become viable political voices and forces

Provide Opportunity:

Offer the avenue to serve as a resource to public and private sectors on aging issues and concerns

Model Legislative Forum:

Develop a non-partisan forum for discussion, debate, and prioritization of issues facing aging Texans

Develop Advocates:

Educate the Texas Silver-Haired Legislators to advocate for adoption of aging resolutions submitted to the Texas Legislature



Interested in Becoming a Texas Silver-Haired Legislator?

Qualifications for election are found on our website: www.tshl.org.

Contact your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Director for details on the election/appointment process. To find your local AAA go to:
<https://txregionalcouncil.org/regional-programs/health-and-human-services/area-agencies-on-aging/>

TSHL RESULTS

Since inception, over 250 bills have passed the Texas Legislature that were directly influenced by the work of the TSHL. Fifteen TSHL resolutions were accomplished, partially or fully, by laws enacted in the 2021 Texas Legislative Session. A few highlights from past years:

- ✓ Increase and maintain the financial strength of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Employee Retirement System (ERS) benefits
- ✓ Increase personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to \$60
- ✓ Create criminal offense for engaging in financial abuse of older Texans
- ✓ Simplification of re/certification of eligibility for SNAP
- ✓ Expansion of rural broadband services
- ✓ Expansion of medical conditions for prescribing use of low-THC cannabis products and support of medical cannabis research
- ✓ Criminal background check of employees and applicants at special care facilities.

Visit our website for a complete listing of the Resolutions adopted by TSHL 2019-2021: www.tshl.org