

We are a network of classroom teachers, veteran educators, industry professionals and friends of scholastic journalism dedicated to providing resources, advocacy and mentorship. Serving Texas journalism teachers, TAJE's goal is to provide resources, advocacy and mentorship for our members.

**WHAT TAJE DOES:**

- Provides outreach, mentorship and workshops to all areas of the state by supporting regional representatives elected by members in their respective regions. Private and junior high/middle schools have their own dedicated representatives.
- Supports New Voices of Texas, a youth-led advocacy movement consisting of student leaders organized to enact legislation to challenge the consequences of the 1988 Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier Supreme Court decision.
- Provides members with experiences and info for developing successful teaching of journalism and directing of publications by hosting its annual Fall Fiesta convention.
- Provides information at taje.org, on social media and in state and regional workshops on new developments, trends, practices and standards to raise the quality of school publications.
- Works with the Texas Education Agency and the State Board of Education to establish professional criteria for journalism education.
- Supports and works closely with other scholastic journalism organizations by sharing information and collecting membership dues for:
  - Journalism Education Association
  - Association of Texas Photography Instructors
  - National Scholastic Press Association
  - Columbia Scholastic Press Association
  - Southern interscholastic Press Association

**WHO TAJE HONORS:**

- *Pathfinder Award* honors journalism educators with seven years (or fewer) experience.
- *Trailblazer Award* honors educators who set trends and shape Texas journalism.
- *Friend of Journalism Award* honors efforts to expand the scope and capability of Texas scholastic journalism.
- *Administrator of the Year Award* honors campus/district leadership who supports the journalism education experience.
- *Texas Treasure* honors persons who spent their careers in Texas journalism and helped, advised, guided and directed other journalism teachers in the state.
- *Texas Journalist of the Year* honors a graduating senior for their work on publications throughout their academic career. The winner and runners-up are recognized at the ILPC Spring Awards Ceremony.

**HOW WE PAY IT FORWARD:**

- \$1,500 Bill Taylor Memorial Scholarship for the Texas Journalist of the Year. The Texas JOY is entered in the Journalism Education Association's national competition.
- \$1,000 scholarships awarded to four graduating seniors
- Six \$150 summer workshop scholarships for students
- Three \$250 summer workshop scholarships for teachers
- Scholarships for students to attend Fall Fiesta

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

- Teach sessions at Fall Fiesta.
- Judge Fall Fiesta contests.
- Critique publications for Fall Fiesta.
- Judge Best in Texas contests.
- Mentor other advisers.
- Run for regional representative or executive board.
- Join special committees on an as-needed basis.
- Share experiences and lesson ideas on the TAJE website.

**CALENDAR**

- Oct. 7-9, 2023* Fall Fiesta
- Oct. 27, 2023* Best in Texas Yearbook entries due
- Dec. 9, 2023* CenTex Virtual Invitational UIL Meet
- Jan. 31, 2024* Best in Texas Online News, Print News and Broadcast entries due
- Feb. 15, 2024* Deadlines for Journalist of the Year and TAJE Scholarships

## HOW WE HELP STUDENTS SHINE:

- Fall Fiesta Best of Show contest for publications
- Fall Fiesta photo, video, design, writing and broadcast contests
- Fall Fiesta on-site critique feedback and student-led sessions in The Bureau
- Best in Texas competition for student work in yearbook, print news, online news and broadcast with category winners named Best of the Best
- Central Texas Virtual Journalism Invitational Meet co-sponsored with UIL
- Provide leadership opportunities for journalism students as New Voices officers and Student Advisory Panel members

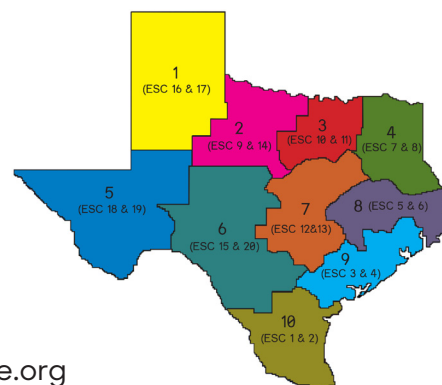
# fall fiesta

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISM EDUCATORS CONVENTION

Our annual three-day convention features outstanding speakers, contests, critiques, fun and so much more for advisers and students.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Region 1:** Jasinia Frausto, Canyon High School - region1@taje.org  
**Region 2:** Daniel Ryan Carr, Ray Braswell High School - region2@taje.org  
**Region 3:** Taylor Mersmann, Rock Hill HS - region3@taje.org  
**Region 4:** Tabitha Houchens, Redwater HS - region4@taje.org  
**Region 5:** Vanessa Martinez, El Dorado HS - region5@taje.org  
**Region 6:** Shannon Kelly, John M. Harlan HS - region6@taje.org  
**Region 7:** Haley Gluch, McNeil HS - region7@taje.org  
**Region 8:** Mike Tobias, Port Neches-Groves HS - region8@taje.org  
**Region 9:** Megan Ortiz, Kingwood Park HS - region9@taje.org  
**Region 10:** Sandra Casperson, Robert Vela HS - region10@taje.org  
**Private Schools:** Alicia Merrifield, The Village School - privateschools@taje.org



## EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- President:** Kari Riemer, Hendrickson HS - president@taje.org  
**President-Elect:** Michael Reeves, James Bowie HS - presidentelect@taje.org  
**Past President:** Alyssa Boehringer, Austin - pastpresident@taje.org  
**Secretary:** Stephen Green, Caney Creek HS - secretary@taje.org  
**Treasurer:** Margaret Edmonson, Smithson Valley HS - treasurer@taje.org  
**State Director:** Lisa Roskens, Prosper HS - statedirector@taje.org
- Contest Director:** Andrea Negri, Bellaire HS - contests@taje.org  
**Convention Director:** Alison Strelitz - convention@taje.org  
**Webmaster:** Mauri Sparks, Stephen F. Austin HS - webmaster@taje.org
- Education Chair:** Laura Negri, Alief Kerr HS - education@taje.org  
**Legislative and Policy Chair:** David Doerr, Akins Early College HS - policy@taje.org
- ILPC Liaison:** Alyssa Boehringer, Austin - aboehringer@uiltexas.org  
**ATPI Liaison:** Mark Murray, Santa Fe, New Mexico - mmurray@atpi.org
- Executive Director:** Cindy Todd, Buda - director@taje.org

Contact any of these people with questions or to get more involved.