

Abilene Christian University

Digital Commons @ ACU

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

Digitized Manuscripts, Personal Papers and
Archival Records

4-1998

Silver Bulletin, Volume XII, Number 2

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

William J. Sagstetter

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/tshl>



Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Gerontology Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), and the [Regional Sociology Commons](#)



Silver Bulletin

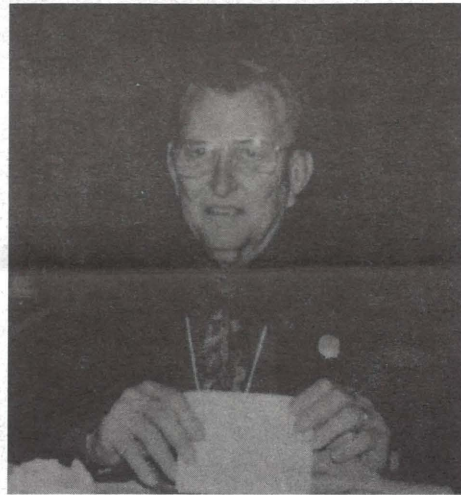


Volume XII April 1998 Number 2
Official Publication of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature

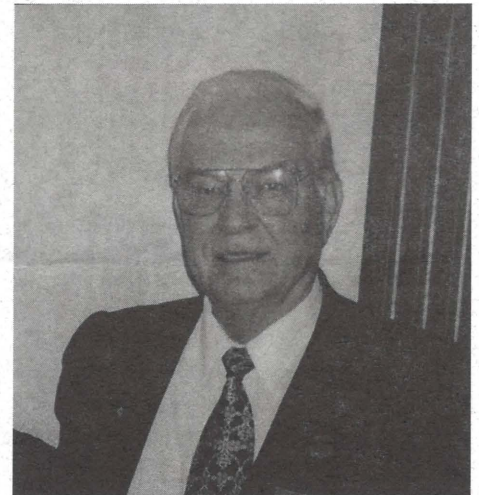
Candidates Announce for Five Highest TSHL Offices



GLEN PETERSON



W.G. (GASTON) WEST



FELIX NIGH

Eight candidates have announced their intentions to run for the top five offices of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in the election to be held during the Orientation Session July 27-31.

There are three candidates for the office of Speaker. They are Felix Nigh of Houston, Glenn Peterson of Boerne and W.G. (Gaston) West of Corpus Christi. Nigh presently is serving as Speaker Pro Tem.

For Deputy Speaker, two people seek the job. They are Jim Cowgill of Dallas and Charlotte Parks of Ben Wheeler.

The Deputy Speaker Pro Tem position is being sought by Jean McCloud of Dallas and Tom Perkins, who seeks re-election, from Smiley.

The position of Comptroller has Oris Greever of Abilene as a candidate for re-election.

So far there have been no announcements regarding the office of Secretary, presently held by Jean McCloud. Interested people should file.

Balloting for these five highest TSHL offices will be held during the Orientation Session July 27-31 at T. C. Jester Hall, University of Texas at Austin.

Any one wishing to run for one of these offices still has time to announce for the position. Deadline for filing is July 12, or 15 days from orientation.

Plans call for complete summaries of information on each candidate to be carried in the July issue of the *Silver Bulletin*. All candidates are requested to provide copies of all campaign material to editor Bill Sagstetter.

All members desiring to be candidates for the five elective offices must file their intentions with the TSHL Secretary no later than 15 days prior to opening of the Orientation Session. A candidate may file for only one office and, if elected, may not serve as an officer of any of the various TSHL Committees.

Anyone running for office first must be re-elected on May 26 to the TSHL.

Orientation Session Begins on July 27

The biennial Orientation Session of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature will be held from July 27-31 at the T.C. Jester Hall, University of Texas, Austin.

According to Operations Committee Chair W.G. West, the meeting will include four dinners, four lunches and three breakfasts, plus lodging. Prices for the total session are \$151.55 for singles and \$194.65 for double room occupancy.

Members of the Operations Committee again will handle room assignments at the Orientation Session. The Committee will be making a separate mailing shortly with registration information.

During the Orientation Session, TSHL officers will be elected for two year terms. Committee assignments will be announced, and Committee officers will be elected.

TSHL Area Elections Begin on May 26th

The election for members of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature will be held on May 26 in every TSHL and AAA area throughout the state.

March 17 was the deadline for submission of ballots for printing, and on April 21 the ballots will be distributed to AAA and other authorized distribution points. From May 1-21, absentee ballots may be filed.

For details, please check with your nearest Area Agency on Aging.

Candidates are urged to seek as much publicity as possible. Send your picture and candidacy announcement to your local newspapers and broadcasters. Make speeches before your Area AARP chapters and other organizations devoted to Seniors. Visit nursing homes and retirement communities, and explain the purpose of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

To cast a ballot in this election, voter must be a registered Texas voter and must be 60 years of age. Voting truly will be done by your peers, under the supervision of AAA and TDOA Area offices.

Silver Threads

By BILL SAGSTETTER

If you are a part time basketball fan and haven't been really watching the sport in recent years, the uniforms now being worn will not please you. The roomy, knee length shorts make the players look utterly ridiculous. You wonder what sports fashion clothes designer has been able to dictate this ridiculous fashion. And I wonder how it makes the 7-foot, 275 pound players feel?

Here's a poem by Charles Osgood that drives home the point that being pretty good is not good enough. . . a sad commentary on our educational system.

There once was a pretty good student,
Who sat in a pretty good class
And was taught by a pretty good teacher
Who always let pretty good pass.

He wasn't terrific at reading,
He wasn't a whiz bang at math.
But for him, education was leading
Straight down a pretty good path.

He didn't find school too exciting,
But he wanted to do pretty well,
And he did have some trouble with writing,
And nobody had taught him to spell.

When doing arithmetic problems,
Pretty good was regarded as fine.
Five plus five needn't always add to ten
A pretty good answer was nine.

The pretty good class that he sat in
Was part of a pretty good school.
And the student was not an exception,
On the contrary, he was the rule.

The pretty good school that he went to
Was there in a pretty good town.
And nobody there seemed to notice
He could not tell a verb from a noun.

The pretty good student in fact was
Part of a pretty good mob.
And the first time he knew what he lacked
Was when he looked for a pretty good job.

It was then when he sought a position
He discovered that life could be tough.
And he soon had a sneaky suspicion:
Pretty good might not be good enough.

The pretty good town in our story
Was part of a pretty good state.
Which had pretty good aspirations
And prayed for a pretty good fate.

There once was a pretty good nation
Pretty proud of the greatness it had,
Which learned much too late,
If you want to be great,
Pretty good is, in fact, pretty bad!
---Copyright 1986 by CBS.

SOUND OFF



It is a delight to report the ruling on 2-9-98 of the Maryland Parole Commission on the parole request of the murderer of my granddaughter.

The ruling is "REFUSAL", not "DENIAL". REFUSAL is door closing.

So many of my Silver Haired Legislature colleagues took part in this victim's right campaign. Petitions were circulated and signed and letters were written. A massive file resulted.

Family members and friends are so grateful. There is no way I can reach each, so please accept this letter as a sincere thank you.

Patricia Cushwa, Chair of MPC, stated that parole is a privilege, not a right, and that no other request would be considered. So that, even with "good behavior", he would be in the correctional institution until 2009.

Jeffrey Todd Whittington, the confessed convicted murderer, has filed for a reversal of the ruling and is requesting a new trial.

It appears our judicial system slams doors on victims and opens many paths for felons. I spoke with Attorney General Dan Morales about the west Texas judge who ruled that no victim could appear at a parole hearing unless the felon gave permission.

I'm sure you remember that Mr. Morales issued a stay on this ruling.

Silver Bulletin

Published quarterly by the Texas Silver Haired Legislature, an advocacy group for the elderly.

HOMER W. LEAR, San Antonio
Speaker

FELIX NIGH, Houston
Speaker Pro Tem

TOM PERKINS, Smiley
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

JEAN McCLOUD, Dallas
Secretary

ORIS GREEVER, Abilene
Comptroller

WILLIAM J. (BILL) SAGSTETTER
Editor

Material submitted for publication in the *Silver Bulletin* is welcomed and should be sent to 118 Oaktree Drive, Rockport, TX 78382. FAX: (512)-729-6939. Publications devoted to the elderly are invited to reprint articles from the *Silver Bulletin*, with or without credit. Exchanges welcomed.

The Silver Haired Legislature Computer HOME PAGE is located at [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tshl.

He told me that he expected the matter would go to the Texas Supreme Court.

Perhaps the TSHL would wish to study this issue.

Again my great gratitude. MARYETHYL PRAETZ, Sherman, TX., Member of first, second, third and fourth TSHL and first National SHC.

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Silver Haired Legislature election orientation in Corpus Christi. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us.

Congratulations on the good job you are doing with the *Silver Bulletin*, Bill. Sincerely. FRED BELL, Corpus Christi.

Hi, Bill: Hope the enclosed clipping gives you enough information to write an article about Glen S. Schreiner. Thanks for all your good work. Very best regards. DICK LANDRY, Conroe

I am honored to be the Governor of our great state. It's a challenging job, with plenty of opportunities to make Texas a better place. It is something special to live in the house where Sam Houston and so many other great Texans lived. It reminds me that I have a responsibility to do what I believe in my heart is right for our state and all her people.

We've made great progress in restoring local control of education, changing a failed welfare system, strengthening juvenile and criminal justice, stopping lawsuit abuse and giving Texans the largest tax cut in history—\$1 billion in property tax cuts paid for by budget savings. But more must be done to make Texas a beacon state. I'd like to continue that progress...

Thank you for your friendship. Sincerely, GEORGE W. BUSH, Governor of Texas, Austin.

NOTE: Letters to SOUNDOFF are welcomed at 118 Oaktree Drive, Rockport, TX 78382

1998 TSHL CALENDAR

May 26—Ballots will be cast statewide for TSHL Candidates for two year terms.

June 19—TSHL Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00a.m. at SW Bell Bldg., Austin.

June 19—National Silver Haired Congress Texas members meeting, 1:00 p.m. at SW Bell Bldg., Austin.

July 27-31—Orientation Session of TSHL to be held in T.C. Jester Hall, University of Texas, Austin.

Sept. 14-18—TSHL Legislative Session, House of Representatives, State Capitol, Austin.

Dec. 1-3—Governor's Conference on Aging, Convention Center, Austin.

Need More Seniors on Computer Superhighway, Says Earl Robinson

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature member Earl Robinson of Killeen is featured in an article in the Temple magazine, ETC, in the January issue. Here are excerpts from the story:

Earl Robinson knows numbers. "My notebook is a Pentium 100, my desk top is a 486-75, that is 75 megahertz, and they're IBM compatible," he lists. If you've ever booted a system or downloaded a file, you know Robinson knows computers, too.

What you may not know is that he's 69 years old and at the top of the technology game. "I'm sort of a computer evangelist here, he says from his Youngsport home.

He preaches the gospel according to e-mail, Web pages and HTTP sites, and has made a few converts, including his wife (Leona) 66. He finally convinced me I wouldn't ruin it," she says. "Once I decided I really couldn't wipe anything out and mess up the program, it didn't take all that long to learn it."

Earl wasn't always hard-wired into circuits. Growing up in rural Texas, he had few of the conveniences standard for youngsters today.

What he lacked in hardware, he made up for in curiosity. His brother was in radio training led by the depression-era National Recovery Administration. The older boy brought home a book containing simple codes. Little Earl sat down with the book, an old doorbell ringer and a few odds and ends. A short time later, he had a code-sending set that buzzed the bell. That experiment opened the door to a life long interest in electronics and technology.

Decades later, a Tandy 1000 became his gateway to the modern computing world, after he familiarized himself with the now-antique 36040 IBM computers—part of his military duties at Fort Hood.

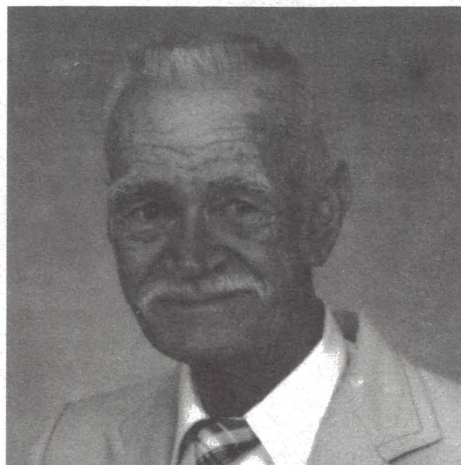
Robinson uses his 486 daily in his work as Temple-Belton representative of the Texas Silver Haired Legislature. He designed and maintains the group's Web page, and is now renovating some donated 386s, installing modems on them so TSHL can put them to work.

He communicates with organization leaders via e-mail, the latest in electronic correspondence. "With 116 legislators, it costs 50 bucks just to send everybody a letter," he explains. "Just with that, it's easy to see the importance of computer communication instead of 'snail mail', as the kids call it."

Earl says he would like more seniors to get on the information superhighway, but too many confine themselves to back roads. "I think most are defeated before they start because they think they can't learn before they try," he asserts.

Both Leona and Earl say using the Net is easier than it seems, but the finer points take a little more time. She has used computers to trace genealogy and to record her family tree, saving hours of time.

The two have taken to computing together in



EARL ROBINSON

their work at the local Senior Center, putting records for the 200 members on his Pentium. "Older fingers can learn new hits," says Leona.

After two years of distinguished service in TSHL, Earl this year is not running for re-election. Instead, Leona is running as his replacement.

More Computers Given to TSHL

During the Executive Committee meeting on March 19, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem Tom Perkins announced that 14 more computers have been donated to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature by the State of Texas. These are used computers and not all of them are in top condition.

It was suggested as a motion that each person who gets a computer in the future pay for their own printer. Motion was made by Computer Committee Chairman Jim Cowgill. Cowgill also suggested that the Computer Committee be regarded as a Communications Committee responsibility in the future. After some discussion, motion was tabled to allow further study.

He also reported that another used computer has been donated by Tom Perkins.

The following E-Mail Addresses can be used to reach the TSHL members listed here:

Homer Lear: ITWL315 @ AOL.COM

Tom Perkins: TPERK @ THE-CIA.NET*

Jim Cowgill: jcowgill @ flash.net

Bill Sagstetter: MBSAGSTETTER @ JUNO.COM

Randie Cook: randie1 @ msn.com

Charles McFarland: CHUCKMCFARLAND @ JUNO.COM

Earl Landis: ELANDIS @ WORLDNET.ATL.NET

Gaston West: WEST10480AOL.COM

Earl Robinson: ROB200 @ Juno.com

GLEN S. SCHREINER

Glen S. Schreiner died at the Woodlands on March 27. A member of the first Texas Silver Haired Legislature, his death at age 80 marked the end of a long and distinguished career.

Survivors include two sons: Brad and Mark of Houston; four grandchildren, three brothers, 10 nephews, nine nieces, two daughters-in-law.

Schreiner held Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from the University of Texas. He was an ordained Methodist minister and taught at secondary, junior college and university levels. He was Public Relations Director for the Houston Post.

During World War II, he served in U.S. Counter Intelligence and G-2. He was involved in the Nuremberg trials, awarded three campaign medals, a victory ribbon, and a bronze star.

Schreiner was involved with AARP, YWCA, Committee on Aging, Food Bank, United Way, Nursing home, Over Fifties Follies, Senior Olympics and Community College. He was awarded four certificates for exceptional and meritorious community service by Texas Governor Mark White and two from AARP.

Part of his epitaph read: "Hundreds of people's lives were impacted by association with him. His love and caring for his fellow man is his gift and legacy, his mark for eternity. Glen's footprints in the sand will not disappear."

TSHL Foundation Met December 3

On December 3, 1997, the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation met in Austin. Members present included Virginia Black-Fikes, Aliceanne Wallace, Allen Grobe, Marie Wallace, Dan Roberts, Oris Greever, James Davis, Ronnie Ault and Scott Bailey. Excused absences were Jack Burton, Cluade Andrews and Joe Bailey. Also attending were TSHL members Charlotte Parks and Lewis Marshall, and Frank Netherton from A.G. Edwards.

Allen Grobe discussed elections and credentials. Motion was made by Aliceanne Wallace to give \$500.00 to each area AAA to fund the TSHL elections if they request it. Motion was seconded by Ronnie Ault. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the group that there is a need to get a ruling from the accountant on paying bills for education of the Silver Haired Legislature. Can one check be made to the legislature for them to use in payments for education, or will this be in violation of 501C3 status?



Group photo of delegates from Texas to 1997 National Silver Haired Congress.

Older Americans get Top Priority at National Silver Haired Congress

After adopting major resolutions on key aging, family and intergenerational issues, the Second Session of the National Silver-Haired Congress adjourned from the week long conference, held in suburban Washington, D.C.

Among the top resolutions adopted by 300 Silver-Haired Senators and representatives from 34 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the following five received top priority:

1. Re-authorize and Support the older Americans Act and increase its funding by at least eight percent. Emphasize the national congregate and home-delivered meals program.

2. Preserve Social Security to insure well being of our senior citizens and to maintain their independence. Retain full support of Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) pertaining to Social Security, to preserve the purchasing power of SS benefits.

3. Long Term Care Continuum, including outpatient care, inpatient care, nursing home care, home care, hospice care, adult day care, adult foster care and other options for independent living.

4. Health Care Consumer Bill of Rights, including full disclosure by all HMOs, making it possible for seniors to intelligently decide whether they should leave fee-for-service Medicare and make comparisons with available HMOs.

5. Curtailing Fraud Against Medicare through Operation Restore Trust. Use this to serve as an educational and informational tool to inform the general public of ways to combat fraud against Medicare and Medicaid.

Responsible for the smooth running Legislative Session were Silver House Speaker Virginia Zachert, Silver Senate President Chris Franklin and President Pro Tem Homer Lear (TSHL Speaker).

Officers and committee chairs worked long and hard to organize and implement the formation, completion and passage of Resolutions, later to be

presented to the U.S. Congress.

Among the speakers were Martha McSteen of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; Kenneth Apfel, Commissioner of Social Security; Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Dr. Robert Butler, CEO of International Longevity Center; Jeanette Takamura, Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Administration on Aging; David Newburger, Executive Director of Campaign for Telecommunications Access; and William H. White, Associate Director for Public Liaison at the White House.

Veteran organizer and member of NSHC Bob Blancato, Advisory Council Chairman, each night acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Thirty delegates from the Congressional Districts of Texas attended the National Silver-Haired Congress. Officers of the Texas Delegation include Felix Nigh, Chair; Hazel Wright, Vice-Chair; Nikki Gatlin, Secretary; and Elmer Ingle, Treasurer. John Hawkins of Snook is Region VI Director and is a Texas Silver Senator, along with Homer Lear of

San Antonio.

After the meeting of the Executive Committee of TSHL in Austin on June 19, Texas members of the National Silver Haired Congress will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the Southwestern Bell Building.

Changes Noted in Medicare Plans

Recently-changed laws at the federal and state level have given Texans unprecedented freedom of choice in the areas of additional Medicare coverage. However, the Texas department on Aging (TDoA) is urging consumers to exercise caution and look at all their options before availing themselves of the new opportunities.

If you are now on Medicare, you're probably enrolled in a fee-for-service plan (traditional Medicare). Or, you may have joined a Medicare HMO plan. If you are starting this year, there are even more Medicare plans to choose from. These include:

• **Private Contracting** - No matter what kind of plan you are in, you may enter into a "private contracting" arrangement with any doctor or other health care provider. You literally sign a contract for specific services and their associated costs. This enables you to see doctors who don't participate in Medicare. The doctor charges his fee, and you pay the whole bill. A doctor who accepts even one patient for one treatment under such an arrangement that could have been reimbursed by Medicare will be barred from participating in Medicare for 24 months.

• **Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO)** - This variation of managed care features a network of providers that the plan prefers members to use. If you decide at any time not to use a provider in the network, you'll be liable for a percentage of the cost of the non-network provider. That is higher than the typical HMO co-payments.

• **Provider-sponsored Organizations** - This hybrid variation of managed care is formed by a group of doctors and hospitals instead of an insurance company. It has emerged in part because rural areas do not have enough people or services to attract large managed care companies.

Silver Bulletin

118 Oaktree Drive
Rockport, TX 78382

April 1998



*Official publication of
the Texas Silver Haired
Legislature.*

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rockport, TX 78382
Permit No. 21**