

**AMET Conference Planning Committee Meeting  
Omni Corpus Christi Hotel  
November 8, 2011**

- Officers and Directors in Attendance: Sigi Huerta (President), Wade and Sondra Burroughs (Executive Directors), Omar Chavez (President-Elect), Brenda Thompson (Treasurer), Linda Aranda (Secretary), Tomas Yanez (Special Programs Advisor); Peggy Wimberly (Higher Ed. Advisor), Veronica Burgoa (United ISD), Idalia Ibañez (ESC 2), Linda Easterling (ESC 3), Herminia Lopez (Goose Creek CISD), Idalia Summers (Madisonville CISD), Marianela Bowen (Chapel Hill ISD), Carole Dickerson (Harts Bluff ISD), Vicky Lopez (ESC 9), Dora Moron (Irving ISD), Mariette Burt (ESC 11), Carie Downes (ESC 12), Mari Lester (ESC 13), Emilia Moreno (ESC 14), Jennifer Rutherford (ESC 15), Diane Reid (ESC 16), Aurora Dominguez (ESC 18), Rose Tarin (ESC 19), Paula Renken (ESC 20), Alex Dominguez (Awards Committee), Valerie Peake (Scholarship Committee), Ed Tweedie (Vendors Representative).
- Invited Guest: Mari Castañeda (ESC 15).
- Officers & Directors Not in Attendance: Dick Van Hoose (Lorenzo ISD)

**I. Welcome/Introductions**

- Meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.
- Directors need to be present on Thursday morning at the regional meetings and at the AMET General Assembly on Friday. Red shirts are to be worn at opening and on Friday.
- Hospitality Social is being hosted by BCLI on Thursday evening in Wade's room at 5 p.m. and South Padre Island (SPI) Chamber of Commerce is hosting the dinner this evening at 6 p.m. at the Water Street Bar and Grill.

**II. Roll Call**

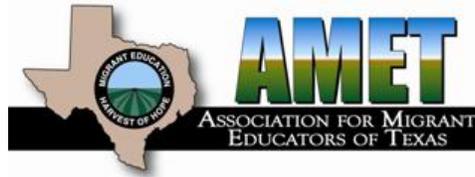
- Linda called roll. Sigi asked if we had quorum. Linda responded affirmatively.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from February 7, 2011 Meeting were reviewed.
- Mari Lester (ESC 13) questioned page 11 about her name as Chair of Website Committee. Sigi wants to continue with that committee to offer suggestions to Valerie.
- Tomas Yañez (Advisor) asked question on page 11 which was clarified.
- Paula Renken (ESC 20) questioned budget amounts on page 8 and 9 that would come to Texas in presentation from Jennifer Dozier OME. Corrections made.
- Brenda Thompson (Treasurer) moved minutes to be approved as amended; Paula Renken seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as amended.

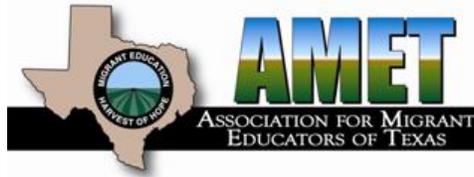
**IV. Old Business**

- (Sigi) In the Officers Meeting in Sept. they appointed Omar Chavez as President Elect. It takes a lot of time to plan the conference so this was necessary to move forward with conference. If you are interested in this position or have suggestions talk to Omar or Sigi.



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- (Idalia Ibanez, ESC 2) Current conference registration is 480. 129 of those are unpaid. Liza Ramirez was listed as being at the conference live and she won't be here live but DVD. This could be a problem.
- (Idalia) Door prizes may be placed in the Executive Board Room or dropped off at registration booth.
- (Idalia) Entertainment and speakers are secured. Veterans Day celebration will be presented by students on Friday. Mayor won't be able to be present to give welcome. The assistant was trying to get him scheduled but it didn't happen. Sigi asked if Idalia could read the letter from the mayor. The local committee has taken care of all arrangements and she felt we would be happy with them.
- (Sigi) It is always expected that when we leave SPI, the numbers are low but they are real low this year. Some districts had asked if they could get refund for registration. Sigi told them the conference committee had decided that no refunds would be given. If someone from your region wants refund, Sigi will get with director to speak to that district. Funds have already been encumbered. We will accept substitutions but no refunds.
- (Wade) SPI and Ed Tweetie (Ed Tech Learning) are hosting the dinner for directors and officers tonight and breaks.
- (Idalia) Tomorrow night's reception will be in the Corpus Christi Ballroom
- (Idalia) Thursday afternoon is happy hour sponsored by BCLI
- (Idalia) For the social Thursday night we had planned for Electro Band to play at the dance; however, the lead singer had a stroke and unable to come. Therefore, we will have the DJ which was going to play at the reception for the social and we will have a live Mariachi Band play at the reception. Wade asked that we all try to attend since AMET has paid a lot of money for these events.
- (Idalia) We have 19 exhibitors as of today. Idalia will thank them at the opening.
- (Sigi) Jennifer Rutherford will man the AMET booth.
- (Sigi) We were hoping the new State PAC President, Eleazar Limas from ESC 1 would join the Directors' meeting but he is not scheduled to come until later. Sigi had asked that State PAC President be a member of the Board of Directors.
- Brenda asked what we do with the laptops and projectors which were brought. Facilitators need to take care of the laptops and projectors which will be set up by each person that brought one on the Thursday morning.
- (Idalia) The Bilingual ESL Student Organization (BESO) has volunteered in the past and we won't have them this year. They couldn't be able to make it.
- (Wade) We have technical support from hotel.
- (Sigi) We need 4 volunteers to set-up their lap tops and projectors for academies (Idalia will take Administrators Academy in Corpus Christi C; Alex for ID&R Academy in Corpus Christi A; Omar has computer and projector for Counselors Academy in Corpus Christi B;



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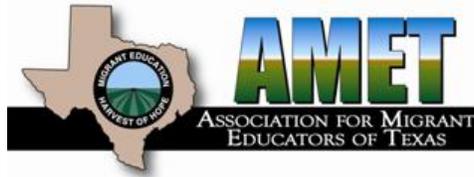
and Ed Tweedie for NGS Academy in Nueces Ballroom A and Nueces Ballroom B for Parent Academy.

- (Sigi) Academy Chairs need to be in their perspective academies.

**V. New Business**

**Close-Up**

- NHI-Justin Andersen Close-up in DC is a nonprofit organization that provides students experience and travel to Washington DC; students get an opportunity to meet students from across US, return to their communities and be leaders. Close-up was established in 1971; since then 700,000 high and middle school students and teachers have participated. This is not strictly for migrant students. Students from different countries and states participate. Close-up takes care of all logistics (travel, meals, and they take care of part of cost). Instructors are college graduates that have had criminal background checks; they provide on-call nurses throughout the program. They also have a professional development program for teachers to attend.
- Students stay for 1 week. When they visit the monuments they are in small groups and they have a leader that speaks about that person and the impact that person had in American government. (i.e., Roosevelt Monument-Great role in Great depression.)
- Middle School program is during the year and it is part of their curriculum they will study in their government and history classes.
- High School program for new Americans is for recent immigrants in last 5 years. Some regions like this program and others like to have core program participation during the year.
- Justin provided brochures to directors and explained that he would send each director a free copy of the MS curriculum.
- They keep students busy throughout the day and night. They have a Fox news debates on immigration, gun control, etc. in the evenings. HS has a mock congress activity. Students are placed 100 at each hotel and will role-play as lobbyist.
- MS scaffolding approach. Each night they practice what will be discussed the next day. (i.e., Desert Island Activity and students must pick the Bill of Rights for their island.)
- This is also a social curriculum where they meet students from across the country and world.
- Cost for HS - \$1,600-\$1,900 (Travel, meals, all inclusive); MS-5 days 4 nights \$1,600-\$1,800;
- Paula Renken (ESC 20) has contracted with Close-up and they take 30 students every year from ESC20. Diversity is the most important aspect of this program. ESC20 students roomed with students from Switzerland last year. Program is 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. They are very accommodating because the chaperone will stay with student all day. ESC 20 had 5 working weekends with students before the trip to prepare them for what they would expect, behavior, etc.



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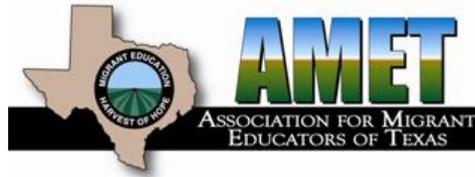
- Sigi asked if there is any talk about local Austin trips. Close-up doesn't have anything running currently in Texas.
- Justin said if we need to be with the students, they can accommodate them.
- Current and controversial topics are discussed at HS program.
- Chaperone cost is 1 free for every 10 paid students. If additional chaperones are required \$350 more than student chaperone.
- Accommodations are 4 students to 1 room.
- MS program involves a trip to Williamsburg and Gettysburg; some trips are to NY but it is pricier.

**Bert Corona Leadership Institute (BCLI)**

- Francisco Lopez has been with BCLI for 10 years of its history; Cristina helps in summer and gathering statistical data for last 10 years. Javier Chacon is also a staff member at BCLI.
- Program includes leadership develop; civic engagement; agenda driven process; strengthening life skills.
- Francisco showed an 8 minute video from the BCLI past.
- Program is 1 week long in Washington, D. C.
- Measureable Impact: Issues Agenda Formation-BCLI focuses on issues that are important to each student at home.
- They award scholarships; in Texas they have awarded \$82,000.
- Small groups of 60 or less.
- Onsite training for up to 120 (1-1/2 days)
- Accreditation by UT Austin/CA PASS-70 hours of Government course. UT gives them study materials and then the student can take the CBE.
- Bilingual training options
- Sigi asked if BCLI has a local program for MS. Mari Lester (ESC 13) expressed the significant impact of learning experience the students don't get to live in History or Government books.
- (Tomas) TMIP is going to offer 15 slots to areas that have no funds in Texas this year.
- Omar Chavez (Pres. Elect) sends 30 students to both BCLI and Close-up. He focuses on juniors and seniors so they can benefit from economics courses as well as government and history courses.
- Diana Reid (ESC 16) sent 9 students last year from SSA member districts. Their students created an iMovie to present to their school boards.

**Roger Rosenthal (Texas Migrant Legal Action Program)**

- Texas MEP State Conference is the "real deal" so he is always energized by coming to this conference. He appreciates all AMET does.

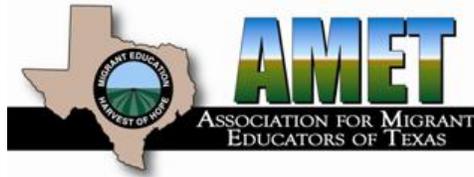


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- He reminded us that federal funding is forward funded-Federal fiscal year of 2011 ended Sept. 30, 2011. The money received by TEA July 1, 2012 is to be used for 2012-2013. There was a fractional cut (less than 1%). Every state has their own way of distributing funds and most are tied to number of students. Therefore, there should not be panic for 2012-2013.
- It will be a more serious problem for 2013-2014 because there are no appropriations for fiscal year that started Oct. 1, 2011. We are on a continued resolution in most programs but not in education.
- It is always important to recruit to maximum and catch all eligible children.
- There is a “Super Committee” that is charged with cutting \$3 billion in budget. If they don’t reach a deal, 5-6% of every federal program will be cut (including defense and all programs). If there is a deal it might be worse because it would cut Medicaid, Medicare, and other big programs. This must pass by Christmas.
- ESEA Reauthorization-Senate has moved a large bill (Mark up) in Health, Ed. Accountability for ELLs, Special Ed., etc will go away with no consequence. The problem is the plan goal will focus on only the lower 5-6% of lowest SEA schools.
- In future, when they get a snapshot they will average the last 3 years of counts for the formula to account for major disasters like floods that affect lower migrant numbers. Roger brought this idea up and they accepted the idea.
- An increasing number of states are passing anti-immigration laws. New enrollees in Alabama had to have inquiries about documentation. Circuit Court knocked it down.
- TEA has just gone through major reorganization and MEP has new leadership which means that all of AMET’s expertise is much more important. AMET has resources that can be provided to the State because there is new leadership at TEA. One thing the AMET Board should be thinking about is what kind of assistance and resource can be provided to the State.
- Sigi feels that because of new leadership they are open to listening to AMET. We will play a stronger role.

**Insurance Committee**

- Mari Lester (ESC 13) recapped insurance committee’s plan with the prescription card and AMET’s role in the dissemination of the card.
- She provided a brief recap on how this project and the people made this card happened.
- The discount card will provide a savings of 20-30% at any major drug store. Anyone can use it. AMET will get \$0.30 for every prescription card filled.
- We are launching this card at the conference.
- Valerie Peake (Website) will work with Brent and Jack to print from website additional cards which may be utilized.
- The success of this fundraiser and use of cards is up to AMET.



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- Dora Moron (ESC 10) asked what questions pharmacies would have. The 800 number on back will provide answers.
- We have an unlimited use to each card; they don't expire.
- Roger asked how insurance coverage would affect this card. It is not an insurance card but a discount pharmacy card; people with insurance would have an option of using the AMET discount card or their insurance card.
- These are not the only cards being used.
- Idalia Ibanez (ESC 2) asked how we would share this with participants. She asked if this could be explained to participants at the opening instead of the closing since the cards are in the participants' bags.
- Idalia Summers (ESC 6) asked if card could be used for over the counter medicines. Mari said they were for prescription medicine only.

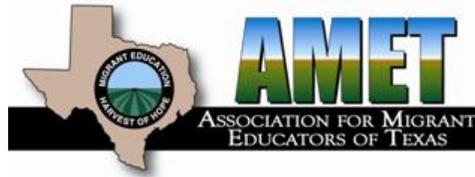
**Conference 2012**

- (Sigi) OME conference is scheduled for November 6, 2012; however, they want to co-host our conference in SPI. Wade spoke to Sylvia Soliz from SPI Chamber of Commerce to move the conference to the week of November 11 since OME can't do it November 6 due to elections. Sigi asked board if they wanted to move forward with this and have directors take a vote. Floor was opened to discussion.
- Next year OME comes to Texas so this would be a great opportunity since they travel nationwide.
- Veronica Burgoa (ESC 1) felt it would be a win-win situation because we will hear the national perspective.
- Roger said OME doesn't have reauthorization on their agenda.
- Paula Renken (ESC 20) felt this is a good opportunity. ESC 20 contracted with Texas State University to rewrite the curriculum for OME. This would be a good time to present that new curriculum.
- Sigi said that OME's sessions could be our pre-conference academies.
- Paula asked if we couldn't come to an agreement with OME would the collaboration still occur. Sigi said that in that case, the conference committee would make the decision.
- Parent conference won't be a conflict since it is in December.
- Sigi opened the floor for a vote and it was approved unanimously to co-host the 2012 AMET conference with OME.

**Committee Updates**

**By-Laws (Tomas)**

- Tomas thanked all persons that had contributed to writing and editing the By-Laws.
- They were updated and posted on website for 30 days for comments. We will vote on them in the general assembly.



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**Public Relations (Omar)**

- We need to promote our organization.
- Valerie has done a great job with the website to promote it.
- We had anticipated lower registrants and we have lower numbers. We might need to look at other means of bringing resources and information to participants if they are not traveling (i.e., offering the session online and charging a fee)

**Openings for Officers (Sigi)**

- The Vice-President's position was open since Tadeo Reyna resigned. Dick Van Hoose, former Director from ESC 17 was appointed to this position by Executive Council.
- Treasurer will be vacant after this conference since Brenda Thompson will be running for director's position again.
- ESC 1 Veronica Burgoa will re-run
- ESC 5 Brenda Thompson will re-run
- ESC 7 Marianela D. Brown has been nominated and taken Sigi Reeves' place
- ESC 9 Vicky Lopez will re-run
- ESC 15 Jennifer Rutherford will re-run
- ESC 19 Margarita Harmeson will run
- Odd numbers will be opened for election this year at the regional meetings on Thursday morning.
- At regional directors we will have a feedback sheet on which to record the topics and elections conducted at the regional meetings. These sheets will be given to Alex Dominguez (ESC 20) and Linda Aranda (Secretary) after the meetings.

**Awards (Alex Dominguez)**

- 23 nominations were submitted across the State.

**Scholarships (Valerie Peake)**

- 18 scholarships have been awarded; only 2 have not responded with college acceptance documentation yet.

**Auction (Jennifer Rutherford)**

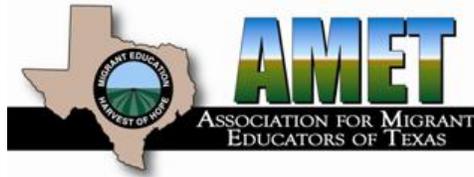
- If you brought items for the auction, bring them to Jennifer at the AMET booth.
- Sigi praised Jennifer for the outstanding job she has done in securing donations for the auction.

**Budget (Sondra Burroughs)**

- Sondra explained the budget. Jennifer Rutherford (ESC 15) moved to accept the financial report; Emilia Moreno seconded the motion; budget was approved.

**Harvest Documentary (Veronica Burgoa, ESC 1)**

- Laredo CARES Initiative was presented along with clips from the Harvest Documentary
- United ISD has 400 migrant students started this fundraiser



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- She has 100% graduation of migrant students.
- Any regional director can speak to the board at any time

**VI. Action Items**

**Harvest of Hope Foundations**

- (Sigi) Phil ran out of the \$5,000 AMET donated HOH for Texas families already. He is asking for more money for Texas families.
- Sigi asked the directors if AMET would donate an additional \$2,500 to last to February 2012. He opened the floor for discussion.
- Omar Chavez (President-Elect) cautioned that we need to be careful due to our financial situation.
- Carie Downes (ESC 12) said sponsors could be encouraged to give to foundations such as HOH instead of hosting a social event like BCLI is doing tomorrow.
- Tomas Yañez said we do have to be careful because we won't ever fill all the needs.
- Diana Reid (ESC 16) asked if we could put out a donation jar to collect money for this organization during the conference.
- Paula Renken (ESC 20) suggested Aetna should also be encouraged to help migrant families since they have to spend a certain amount of money in each county.
- Mariette Burt (ESC 11) feels she doesn't have the time to look for resources when family calls for help so it is good to have HOH help the families.
- Carie Downes (ESC 12) moved that AMET donate \$2,500 to HOH; Dora Moron (ESC 10) seconded the motion. Vote was taken; 11 voted in favor; 6 opposed. Motion carried.

**VII. Adjournment**

- Carie Downes moved to adjourn; Jennifer Rutherford seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.