



## TSNO Region IV Report

In January we held our annual Mid-Winter Dinner Meeting and installation of officers. Our theme was “Responding to Childhood Emergencies: Findings from a Survey of School Nurses 2014-15”, Our speaker, Margaret Ugalde BSN, MSN, D.Ph. gave the participants an overview of a study she conducted for her doctorate that looked at the responses from a survey of school nurses. Some of the feedback from the program suggested that we could use the responses to focus on topics for Belle Blackwell in areas that the school nurses reported feeling the most unprepared to handle. We had 76 school nurses attend this event, and each earned 1 CNE. Our outgoing and incoming Board met at my home for a transition luncheon, and exchange of information

Our Region continued to expand our social media outreach by using Facebook, Twitter and our website. We have plans to update and improve our website in the near future, and added this as a goal to our Strategic Plan this year.

In March our Vice President, Lisa Blackmon Jones, and I traveled to San Antonio for the TSNO Leadership Conference. We took the ideas back to our region to share so that we can “Get Our Message Out in the Right Way”.

Members of our Board attended the UTMB Annual School Health Conference in Galveston and manned a TSNO Region IV Membership table.

In April we combined our Spring CNE offering with our New Nurse Orientation. We were able to offer this free of charge this year and encouraged nonmembers to join by offering them a refund of the \$10 cost if they joined that day. We held the event at the Region IV Educational Service Center for the first time. We again invited Susan Fernbach, RN, BSN, Director of Genetic Outreach and Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Molecular and Human Genetics for Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital to speak to us about prominent genetic disorders. This program has led us to establish a relationship to provide additional education opportunities for school nurses to attend other Genetics seminars.

Many of our TSNO Region IV members travelled to Indianapolis for the NASN Conference.

Summer was full of planning for our 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Belle Blackwell Conference, “School Nurses: Promoting Quality Healthcare for Schools and Communities.” The school nurses of Pearland ISD went above and beyond to create a wonderful conference experience at the beautiful new Glenda Dawson High School. Over 40 vendors attended and 499 school nurses from the region spent the day earning 7 CNE’s. We started our conference with greetings from TSNO President, Francis Luna, and continued on to our business meeting. Members voted in favor of several small changes to our bylaws. Our morning speakers included: Maureen Beck, DNP, RN, GNP-BC – “Care of the Elder Adult” and Taralynn Mackay, BSN, RN, JD – “Texas Nursing Jurisprudence and Nursing Ethics/Professional Boundaries”. After lunch and exhibitor visits, participants heard from Daryl Armstrong Scott, MD, PhD on “Genetic Syndromes and Implications for the School Nurse” and Rachel Cunningham, MPH and G. Brady Kerr, RN, BSN gave us an Immunization Update. We ended the day with Margaret Uvalde, BSN, D.Ph. who presented “Responding to Childhood Emergencies: Results from a Survey of School Nurses”.

In October the board held our annual Strategic Planning at the beautiful Omni Hotel in Houston. Lots of great work was done thanks to the help of our facilitator, Francis Luna. Then preparations for our Annual Mid-Winter Dinner at the University of Houston begin.

Congratulations to our Membership Chairperson, Karen Broussard, who added 15 new TSNO Region IV members this year.

We are looking forward to attending the TSNO State Conference in San Antonio November 4-6.

It was a busy and productive year for Region IV.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Westmoreland RN BS  
President  
TSNO Region IV