



ATPETM

Your Ally. Your Voice.

Spring Newsletter 2018

ATPE Region 4 Executive Committee

Eli Rodriguez
Director
Cy-Fair ISD

Ryan Nassif
President
Clear Creek ISD

Ron Fitzwater
President-Elect
Alvin ISD

Shawn Mustain
Secretary
Spring Branch ISD

Sharon Dixon
Treasurer
Galena Park ISD

Stephanie Baker
Member at Large
Humble ISD

Imelda Hernandez
Past President
Galena Park ISD

ATPE Region 4 Calendar

April 14th, 2018:

Spring Assembly at the
Junior League of Houston, 9:30 am
(Register online [here](#) or at the link
on the Region 4 page at [atpe.org](#))

July 11th-13th, 2018:

ATPE Summit at the Sheraton Dallas

Welcome from the President

Dear Region 4 Members,

When I was in college taking my teacher preparation classes, we always joked we wouldn't make much money but we were entering an honorable profession where we'd always have a job and, hey, it was safer than anything else. The statement on salary is still true, of course, and the honor of this profession is still unmatched... but sadly, the last two parts are no longer the case. Districts across the state—notably HISD—are making drastic cuts as the state's school funding models remain stuck in the past and as seen by the events in Parkland and all across the country schools remain a target.

It's in this tense and nerve-wracking time that it's more vital than ever to have a group to serve as your voice and advocate. You might disagree with their methods (as an organization, ATPE is adamantly opposed to strikes), but look at the teachers in West Virginia! They have come together to make their lives better. It provides me no small measure of comfort to know that I'm a member of the largest organization of school professionals in Texas and that we're all fighting to make our amazing line of work better, too. I'm surrounded by individuals that want what's best for Texas educators and, most importantly, Texas students.

My alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin, has the slogan "What starts here changes the world." With some slight modifications, I think that can apply to ATPE, too: "What starts here changes Texas education." Keep fighting the good fight for your students, your colleagues, and your profession. Lawmakers in Austin and throughout the state will hear our voices and will recognize what we all already know—that Texas teachers are the best in the business, and we will not be messed with.

Best,
Ryan Nassif
Region 4 President

Presidents, don't forget to register your members for the Spring Assembly on April 14th. If you register by March 31st, your cost is \$15 a person. Registration from April 1st to April 7th is \$25 a person. Local Presidents, Presidents-Elect, and winners of a Scholarship/Grant attend the meeting for free.

Nominations for Officers

It's spring time! If you have been involved in ATPE on a local level as officer, it may be time to share your expertise with the whole region. At the ATPE Region 4 Spring Assembly on April 14, we will be electing our 2018-19 officers. And... It could be you!

Officers to be elected:

- **Director** – This person represents the region on the ATPE Board of Directors; conversely, they represent the ATPE Board of Directors to ATPE Region 4. The ideal candidate needs to have local and regional experience to best represent ATPE Region 4.
- **President-Elect** – The person elected will be Region 4 President after they complete the term of president elect. This gives the person a year to prepare for the presidency. We recommend that this person be a region and local officer with various leadership experiences.
- **Treasurer** – This person is responsible for the financial records for the region. Knowledge of Excel is helpful but not required. By the end of the year, the treasurer will learn the program with the help of other officers. It is recommended that a person does a year as region treasurer before running for region president elect. We recommend that this person be a local officer with various leadership experiences.
- **Secretary** – This person is responsible for minutes of all our Region meetings, both Region Assemblies and Executive Committee meeting. We recommend that this person be a local officer with various leadership experiences.
- **Member at Large** – The duties of this office vary and are assigned by the current president. The object is to be a training ground for the individual to fill other positions on the Executive Board.

To be on the printed ballot, nominations must be received by **Nominations Committee** by **March 14** which is 30 days prior to the ATPE Region 4 Spring Assembly per bylaws. The preferred method of nomination is using the online-nomination form. [Nominate Here](#) The form may also be accessed by clicking on the link on the ATPE Region 4 webpage.