

“You can feel it in the air”

The season is fast approaching: Pre-Season Training Camp has begun

Meet the ‘team’ as we get in shape for the 2008-2009 TAHU Political Season



Rick Ott
Director, TAHU
Legislative Affairs



“Postcards From the Ledge”

While the season actually begins with the striking of the gavel, calling the **Texas Legislature’s 81st Session** to order on January 13, 2009, our pre-season has already begun. We’ve identified our players, initiated their training, and are making sure they have their playbooks up-to-date. The e-mails have been flying, faxes and phones ringing, and the team meetings active, and in the coming months, *you will hear much more about it all*. Suffice it to say, with the state and national interest in Health Care, **this is a defining moment in the lives of our industry and our own businesses.**

Let’s meet the team preparing to execute TAHU’s legislative game plan. Listed in alphabetical order, your TAHU Lege Team has drafted experienced players from all across of the state:

- **Cheryl Clark, Director of Legislative Activities.** From North Texas, Lubbock’s Cheryl will chair the annual TAHU *Day at the Capitol* to be held on March 2, 2009. This includes her coordination of House and Senate member meetings to ensure all elected officials are visited by TAHU attendees. And since this is an election year, she will also organize the popular *Freshman Reception* to be held on January 22, 2009 for the newly elected Texas legislators.
- **Rosendo Martinez, Director of Legislative Fundraising.** Representing West Texas and the El Paso chapter, Rosendo will promote legislative fundraising ideas to local chapters, and assist chapter legislative chairs with goal setting and measurement. He will also maintain a database of chapter presidents and lege chairs to educate those individuals on the importance of fundraising. (*Hint: monthly PAC contributions are the premiums we pay for ‘career insurance’.*)
- **Rick Ott, Director of Legislative Affairs.** Rick will chair the Legislative Council meetings and direct communication of the council. Working from South Texas’ Coastal Bend chapter, he will communicate monthly, with input from the entire council, to the local lege chairs what is happening legislatively on the state and national levels.
- **Jeff Sherrod, Director of Legislative Contacts.** From the East Texas area and chapter, Jeff’s primary responsibility will be to create, up-date and maintain a ‘*Key Contact*’ list of TAHU members and supporters from every chapter who will agree to maintain contact with their local legislators regarding TAHU issues.
- **Gary Waldron, Director of Federal Affairs.** A returning player from last season’s team is “*Our Man in Washington*”. By way of the Metroplex, Fort Worth’s Gary has already been busy keeping the TAHU board, lege team, and other political junkies aware of what’s going on in the national political arena.

Rounding out TAHU’s Legislative Team, our “coaches” have been trained, and tested-under-fire in Austin:

- **Misty Baker**, TAHU Treasurer and Lege Team coordinator
- **Shirley Hutzler**, TAHU Government Affairs Consultant
- **Lee Manross**, TAHU Lobbyist

It’s going to be an interesting season for us. Both political parties and their presumptive nominees are positioning themselves to search out as many votes as possible to help them get elected. It’s your association’s position to take an offensive initiative rather than a defensive stance, but we’re prepared to do both. As you can tell from the descriptions above, *our jobs* are to actively participate in the process. I believe *your job* is to actively support us in each of the roles noted above. **The bottom line is that none of us can afford to be spectators.** I hope you agree this IS a defining moment in our careers, and that each of you will do whatever you can to help make sure our team scores as many points as it can ... to win!

(Questions? Contact any member of the Legislative Council: Rick Ott, rickott@swbell.net; Gary Waldron, gwaldron@prescottpaillet.com; Jeff Sherrod, sherrod.jeff@principal.com; Rosendo Martinez, Jr., Martinez@phyhc.com; Cheryl Clark, checlark@teamumc.com; Misty Baker mistyb@onebox.com; Shirley Hutzler, shirly270@aol.com; Lee Manross, lmanross@aol.com)