

THE BULLETIN



★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

Founded November 5, 1921

A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

September 2015

An Information and Registration Form for the 2015 annual Awards Banquet is enclosed in this Bulletin

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Poetry Society of Texas for Saturday, September 12, 2015 – Submitted by the Recording Secretary, Barbara Blanks.

President Catherine L’Herisson presented proposed changes to three PST Bylaws. Members present at the October 10, 2015 state meeting will vote on these changes. Bylaws are in the 2015 *A Book of the Year*. Current bylaw is listed first; proposed change is second.

1. page 177, Article III: “Councilors shall be appointed for a **term of two years** by the President...,” etc.

Proposed change: Eliminate “for a term of two years.” To read simply: “Councilors shall be appointed by the President,” etc. The President would then contact councilors each year to ask if they want to continue as councilors.

2. page 178, Article VII, Section 4: “Each contest shall be judged by one or **three** competent judges.”

Proposed change: “Each contest shall be judged by one or **more** competent judges.”

3. Page 178, Article IX: (PST’s permanent collection of books) “shall be maintained in the **Texas History, Local History and Genealogy Department, Dallas Public Library.**”

Proposed change: “shall be stored at the **J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas.**” Our collection is actually currently stored in Third Floor Humanities.

President Catherine L’Herisson opened the meeting by welcoming our guests who are also family of Spotlight Poet Marie Hunt: Paul Hunt, son; Lisa Hunt, daughter; Melissa Kimbrell, granddaughter; and friend Sharon Joyce. She also welcomed our speaker, Patricia Ferguson of Burleson, and past presidents, Linda Banks and Budd Powell Mahan.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the August Membership Report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis** (see report on page 6).

President L’Herisson gave a brief financial report for **Treasurer Aman Khan**: “doing really well.” Most income was from renewing memberships and contest entry fees.

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported on eleven books donated to the PST permanent collection. Book titles are listed on page 6.

Continued on page 2

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Lynn Lewis, Ft. Worth

First Place: Von S. Bourland, Happy ~ *Mirthful Foliage*

Second Place: Linda Banks

Third Place: Marilyn Stacy

Book Prizes

Reader: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Popular Prize: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Jessica Gonsoulin, McKinney

Poetry for Poets Award: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Ft. Worth

William D. Barney Mem.: Sylvia Medel

M. Tandy Duemke Prize: Manuel English, Poulosbo, WA.

Other Poems Read By: Miriam Hasert, Aman Khan, and

J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Blanks

Laugh Lines Winner: Catherine L’Herisson

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson at 1625 Gayla Creek Drive, Little Elm, TX 75068. The e-mail address is: yranie@att.net



A History of the Poetry Society of Texas

By Budd Powell Mahan

This long planned and well-researched book on the history of our society was presented at the PST Summer Conference in Beaumont, but time constraints prevented a full presentation of this eagerly awaited book. **Good News!** The October meeting will feature Budd Powell Mahan giving a complete presentation of his wonderful book. Do not miss the

opportunity to hear this fascinating program. This book contains many of your favorite characters... maybe you will read about *you!* You will be able to purchase a copy at the meeting, and it is certainly worth the \$10 cost.

Student Awards Chair Budd Powell Mahan reported that he sent out sponsorship renewal letters and received a record number of sponsorships—82. All necessary information is listed on our Website: www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org. Participation is free, so please direct students or schools to the site and encourage their participation.

The NFSPS convention was held in Florida in June. L’Herisson as head delegate for PST. Budd Mahan and Beth Ayers also attended as delegates. The new *Encore* cover is a watercolor painted in 1971 by Nancy Baass, which she submitted in memory of her mother Mildred Vorpahl Baass, who had especially liked this painting.

Also noted: PST sponsors two NFSPS contests. This year PST members won both contests, even though the judges were not from Texas. Christine Boldt won first place in the PST Award, with Loretta Diane Walker in second place. Barbara Green Powell won first place in the Violette Newton Memorial contest, with a poem about Violette, who was her friend. Each winner or entrant in the NFSPS contests was asked to stand and these were applauded.

NOTE: We still need a PST summer conference host for 2016. Plans must be made in advance, so please contact Ayers or L’Herisson if your chapter is up for the prestige and fun of hosting.

Our conference was held in Beaumont in July with Birma Castle in charge. The Mardi Gras theme promised a good time, and it fulfilled that promise. Both Birma and Beth Ayers, who assisted, were thanked. Ayers is preparing a continuous slide show of the conference people and events to be shown at the Awards Banquet on November 14, so that is one more reason to make plans to attend that event. PST poets are fun, so come and mingle and enjoy the company.

Beth Ayers is the new Awards Banquet Chair. Sharon Martin Turner, who has done a wonderful job for several years, has resigned due to her health. Her work has been very much appreciated. Complete information about the Awards Banquet is now available, both on the Website and in this *Bulletin*. Construction around the DoubleTree Hotel is finished, and the meal will cost less—more good reasons to attend.

August 15 was the deadline for entering our annual contests. Judges are asked to be sure to get results back to Nancy Baass by September 28. The contest committee must have time to verify results before winning postcards are sent.

Please note: You **must** read and follow contest rules. Several poems have already been disqualified for being over a maximum line count and/or for having lines longer than 60 characters. “Characters” means letters, spaces, and punctuation. Also poems **must be single spaced**. Double spaced poems are eliminated. These rules apply to both the annual and the monthly contests.

National Poetry Day is October 15. If you do something special or your chapter does something special for this day, please notify Beth Ayers and Valerie Martin Bailey.

The Mockingbird Chapter will host a *Rhythms of Pen and Brush* celebration with Richard Blanco as the featured speaker. Contact Aman Khan and/or Beth Ayers for details, or call 214-544-4630 or go to www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org for additional information.

Spotlight on Members Chair, Jessica Gonsoulin introduced our Spotlight Poet, Marie Hunt of McKinney. Marie has six children and wrote *Mother’s Project Book*.

President L’Herisson introduced **our program speaker, Patricia Ferguson**, from Burleson. She is the president of the Johnson County Chapter, which she started. She is a retired teacher and has been studying Chinese history for two years and Chinese poetry for one and a half years. She said, “I can’t cover 3,000 years of Chinese history in the time allowed,” but she did present an interesting program about Chinese philosophies. She talked about Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist beliefs. Specifically referencing “skill stories,” she explained that one should learn and know something so well that you don’t have to think about it, so that when you write a poem, you can look for its “form,” its constituent parts, so you know how the poem fits. Like when Michelangelo chipped away marble to find the statue that was already inside. Find the form inside the poem you want to write. Ferguson passed out several information sheets. One demonstrated how difficult it can be to translate Chinese poetry into English. Visit www.chinesepoems.com to explore further.

Fortune cookies were available at the break. Afterwards, Beth Ayers announced the winners for September, for **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson**. Winners are listed in the Monthly Contest Box on page 1.

East Texas Christian Writers Conference

Dr. Jerry Hopkins of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas is Chairperson for the 2015 conference to be held on their campus October 30–31. Dr. Hopkins, a PST member, is offering discounts for PST members wishing to attend. PST will have an exhibit at the conference. ETBU wants to promote membership and investment in poetry in Texas, particularly through PST.

Pre-Conference Workshops, Friday afternoon, October 30: \$25 instead of \$40. Main Conference, Saturday, October 31: \$50 instead of \$90. The cost includes workshops, materials needed, and a ticket to the banquet dinner on Friday night. Banquet ticket only is \$15. The banquet begins at 6 p.m. and includes music, chalk artist, and speaker Don Piper, a Texan who experienced death and heaven and later wrote about his experiences in *90 Minutes in Heaven—A True Story of Death and Life*.

Late fees may be added if registration is past October 20. There are contests for the best personal essay, short story, and poetry. For complete details about the conference, go to www.etbu.edu/about/news/east-texas-christian-writers-conference or you may contact Dr. Jerry Hopkins at jhopkins@etbu.edu.



ALAMO AREA POETS

Iris Maahs, Reporting

The summer break ended for AAPT members with a September 5 meeting at Incarnate Word University. We found that our poets did not take a break from spreading the good news about poetry. Peter Holland was the guest speaker at the Barnes and Noble Poetry Therapy Group in August. Iris Maahs started a poetry appreciation group called the PEP (People Enjoying Poetry) at the Meadows Independent Living facility where she lives. She also maintains a poetry display for residents of the Meadows featuring poems written by residents. Antoinette Winstead was actively involved in the Carver Community Center's tribute to Maya Angelou where Aronetta Pierce read from her writings about Maya Angelou. Six hundred people attended the event in her honor. Others active in the San Antonio poetry scene are Don Mathis who was published in the Rivard Report and Toni Murguia who did readings at Sun Poetry and Schertz Public Library.

Awards presented for the May open topic were: Honorable Mention—Don Mathis, 3rd Place—Sheila Moore, 2nd place—Antoinette Winstead, 1st Place—Iris Maahs. Awards for the Assigned topic were: Honorable Mention—Peggy Mott, 3rd Place—Don Mathis, 2nd Place—Iris Maahs, 1st Place—Carol Siskovic. We thank Wendy Barker for judging the May poems.

Vivian Skinner graciously agreed to head up the social committee and her efforts were already evident in the delicious refreshments that she and Iris Maahs provided during the break. It was also a good time to catch up on summer activities. The meeting continued with poems written for September contests. There was a choice of two topics: Imaginary Friend and Favorite Childhood Toy. There were many delightful reminiscences of childhood.

Nancy Carter distributed the Members' Handbook and the 2014-2015 anthology. Billie Stroud has been publishing these books for the group single-handedly since the organization was founded and her dedication is greatly appreciated. She was commended for her tireless efforts. Lucy McBee sent a message thanking members for their support during her recent heart surgery and reported that she is doing better and expects to return to monthly meetings soon.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

The Denton Poets' Assembly, DPA, had an active summer. We met June 20, July 28, August 15, and September 19 at the Emily Fowler Branch Library. Lesson topics included

Ars Poetica, Nature poems, and Ballads presented by J. Paul Holcomb. Our July speaker was Diane Glancy who discussed the NFSPS Summer Conference.

Our assignments each month were based on the lesson from the previous month. We also read free choice poems at each meeting.

Poetry and Art from the Merging Visions Collections V continued throughout the summer at Denton Public Libraries.

In other activities, on Saturday June 20, members of DPA were guests of the City of North Richland Hills where they read poems of their choice at the NRH Poet's Corner. Molly Middleton Meyer hosted the First Annual Audubon Pond Poetry Reading, Friday, June 26. Local poets read their work. Director, Walter Skold, was guest of honor. Skold, known as "The Dead Poet Guy," was in town shooting a documentary. He travels the country visiting grave-sites of former poets.

J. Paul Holcomb and Patrick Marshall represented DPA at the Poetry Society of Texas Summer Conference July 16, 17, and 18 in Beaumont, Texas.

On July 30, DPA members and other PST members participated in a Poetry Open Mic Night hosted by J. Paul Holcomb at MCL Grand in Lewisville, Texas. Participating poets included Christine Irving, Rebecca Hines, Patrick Marshall, Richard Weatherly, and others.

On October 3, Molly Middleton Meyer will host a three-hour workshop. Poets will learn to fly from the conscious mind to the unconscious mind and back again, all within a single poem. At its most basic, "leaping poetry" is poetry that embraces both thought life and flight life.

Denton Poets' Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10AM – Noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Anne Jones Reporting

Tricia Ferguson opened our meeting with the poem "Song of the Wagons" by Du Fu, a Chinese poet. She also spoke about the ancient Chinese poets, since she will be giving a talk about Chinese poets at another event. Among other things, she explained how difficult translation is, since one Chinese symbol might indicate a phrase of several words.

Hilda Mendoza, our Webmaster, reported on our Website which is now working again. It was full of old emails that she is dealing with. She will give us a fuller report next time.

PST has asked us about a Logo for FWPS to be used when posting information about our chapbook contest. Some time ago we tried to find a logo but were unable to agree on the designs submitted. Tricia and Hilda have agreed to form a committee to try again.

We discussed at some length the possibility of changing the way we read the poems when we do our critiques. Reading poems cold is not the best way to present them. Several suggestions were given that seem promising, including having a different reader each month who will have a chance to read the poems beforehand. Mike Baldwin, president, asked that we think about it for a month and perhaps decide on something next month.

Mike gave us a list of contests that we might like to enter. He had another rather long list of contests that we should avoid. Many were vanity contests.

During the announcements, we were reminded of Arts-Goggle on October 10. We will participate with a booth for reading poems, giving information about local poetry groups, selling books, and talking to people passing by about poetry in general.

Tricia also mentioned the Cleburne Cultural Arts Center where Ekphrastic poetry will be displayed, as well as poets reading a wide range of poetry. Many other activities are also planned. Kudos were read, and seven poems were critiqued.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

PST President Catherine L'Herisson was a guest at our abbreviated meeting on September 4.

President Khan reviewed arrangements for the upcoming October 15 program. The Mockingbird Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas, in partnership with the McKinney Performing Arts Center and the Arts and Music Guild, is thrilled to announce *Rhythms of Pen and Brush*, an annual celebration of art, music, and spoken word. The event debuts on Thursday, October 15 and features nationally acclaimed poet, Richard Blanco. The event was established to help foster collaboration between art forms and artists and provide an opportunity to share their work with audiences. In addition to Mr. Blanco, the evening will also feature work by visual artists, jazz musicians from the University of North Texas, poets and actors.

Mr. Blanco is the fifth poet ever to present at a president's inauguration, following in the steps of previous poets Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. As a historic inaugural poet, public speaker, teacher, and memoirist, he continues to travel the world, inviting audiences to reconnect to the heart of the human experience and all of its beautiful diversity. Through the power of his words and presence, Blanco taps into our unspoken dreams, hopes and frustrations. He captures the human spirit and condition, in all its complexities, opening up our minds and encouraging us to see beyond our differences to

share in the universal experience of our humanity.

In previous publicity, two workshops were announced, but there will now be only one free workshop for 40 participants at 4:00 p.m. (first come, first served).

Beth Ayers passed out information on the judging of poems for the PST Mockingbird category.

After our poems were read, the meeting was adjourned for refreshments.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Eddins, who read "Lineage" by Lynn Lewis.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as read. There were no changes in the treasury report. Ron Eddins was the Spotlight Poet.

Announcements: The poets in the Johnson County chapter of PST will present an exhibition of ekphrastic poetry at the Cleburne Cultural Arts Complex, beginning September 19.

President Eddins read the Kudos list. Richard Wilbur's "A Bard Owl" and "Boy at the Window" were read by Contemporary Poet Reader Angie Goins.

President Eddins introduced the featured speaker, Patricia Ferguson, whose topic was Chinese Philosophy and Poetry. The spontaneous poetry discussion centered on the differences between Chinese and English poetry. Assignment poems were read after the break. The meeting was then adjourned by President Eddins.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Mary Tindall Reporting

The Rusk County Poetry Society resumed its regular meetings on August 20 at the South Main Church of Christ with president Richard Hurzeler presiding. Richard opened with a reading of Proverbs 8 and a statement of wisdom. Sharon Taylor presented the treasurer's report for treasurer Charles Taylor. Carol Thompson read the May minutes. Both were approved. Richard announced that RCPS will make a \$100 donation to the South Main Church of Christ. Richard noted the September 1 deadline for the Fall Festival entries and outlined the contest and judging process.

Jo Morrow, Cherry Day, and Robert Bowman, recent RCPS members, shared Spotlight. Sue Roberts presented a "take home" lesson of questions to think about, beginning with "as a writer why do you write poetry? What are your goals? Do you write about social issues? Do you write for your own fulfillment?" Sue read her original poem "My Mother's Hands" and her humorous poem "DeFrosting."

The September assignment is to write a limerick, consisting of five humorous, even bawdy lines, in the AABBA rhyme pattern. Mary Tindall distributed sonnets and general poems critiqued and returned by Evelyn Appelbee.

Ten people attended the meeting: Richard Hurzeler, Sue Roberts, Sharon Taylor, Joyce McGee, Carol Thompson, Joye Greenbalt, Cherry Day, Jo Morrow, Robert Bowman, and Mary Tindall. After enjoying refreshments provided by Mary Tindall, the meeting was adjourned.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

The San Antonio Poets Association (SAPA) was in recess during the summer, but our members stayed in contact, and we are all looking forward to resuming our meetings on September 19 at the San Pedro Presbyterian Church.

Three SAPA members were able to attend the Summer Conference in Beaumont and they greatly enjoyed it. Valerie Bailey, Sharon Turner, and Michaud Lamrouex drove to Beaumont together. Michaud managed the book-room and did a great job as usual. Sharon handled the Life Member Raffle with her usual flair, and Valerie was delighted to win first place again in the "You Be the Judge" contest, having tied with Barbara Berry for first place last year.

Lucy McBee, a long time member of SAPA had heart surgery on August 10 to remove a tumor from her heart. She came through the surgery well, and we wish her a speedy recovery and hope she can be back with us soon. We miss her and her husband Bob.

Dr. Mo Saidi's new novel *The Marchers: A Novel* is now published and available on Amazon.com. It was edited and published by Valerie Bailey's Word Design Press. It is historical fiction based on true experiences about the revolution in Iran in the 1970s. Although it is a novel, it contains many of Dr. Saidi's short poems. Mo has been traveling extensively in India and he will share his photos and insights in a future edition of *Voices de la Luna, a Poetry and Art Magazine*.

Publications chair, Valerie Bailey will present the 2015-16 Member's Handbooks and the 2014-2015 *Inkwell Echoes*. Valerie will also give her eleventh Poet Laureate Address at the September meeting.

We can't post our winning poems for May since the *Bulletin* will go to press before our September meeting.

SAN JACINTO CHAPTER

Donald Graham Reporting

Our regular monthly meeting was held on Saturday, September 12. After a brief business meeting, the program was presented by Ken Jurek and Marvin Trent. They discussed the life and works of John Milton with a special emphasis and readings from *Paradise Lost*. A special guest was well known cowboy poet Smokey Culver. Next month Smokey and Marvin will team up to sing cowboy songs, and Smokey will recite some of his poetry. After the program, we enjoyed refreshments and a read around. Everyone was pleased with the program. We hope to see you next month.

Rhythms of Pen and Brush

The Mockingbird Chapter of PST, in partnership with McKinney Performing Arts Center and the Arts and Music Guild, announces *Rhythms of Pen and Brush*, an annual celebration of art, music, and spoken word. The event debuts on Thursday, October 15 and features nationally acclaimed poet, Richard Blanco. Mr. Blanco is a historic inaugural poet, who travels the world opening up minds and encouraging people to see beyond their differences. In addition to Mr. Blanco, the evening will also feature work by visual artists, jazz musicians from the University of North Texas, poets and actors. Read the details in the Mockingbird Chapter news on page 4.

The Art of Peace Festival ...

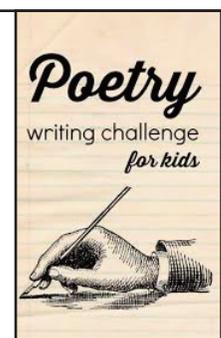
This festival is going on right now in Tyler, Texas through Monday, September 21, which is the United Nations International Day of Peace. Anne McCrady, who lives in Tyler and is involved in this effort has published a small anthology of poems about peace. The title is: *Intertwined: Peace as a Shared Endeavor*. Catherine L'Herisson, Linda Banks, Michael Baldwin, Michael Owens, Karla Morton, Kat Copeland, and several other members from PST and the Rusk County Poetry Society are published in the anthology. The proceeds go to support the St. Paul Children's Foundation. For ordering information contact Anne McCrady. Her contact information can be found in the *ABOTY* directory in the back of the book.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY OCTOBER 15

If you or your chapter will be doing something special to celebrate National Poetry Day, please contact Beth Ayers at bta1955@hotmail.com and Valerie Bailey at vbaileybulletin@satx.rr.com. Beth will prepare a report for NFSPS and Valerie will publicize it in the *Bulletin*. Get creative and show our national society that Texas poets know how to celebrate their craft.

PST STUDENT AWARD INFORMATION

The brochure for the 2016 Student Awards is available on the PST Website at: www.poetrysocietyof-texas.org. Anyone who works with students may request hard copy of the brochure if needed. Contact Budd by phone at 972-788-4944 or Email him at buddmahan@att.net, or write to him at 7059 Spring Valley, Dallas 75254.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ AUGUST, 2015

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....223	Sustaining Members.....9
Associate Members.....18	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....59	Renewing Members.....16
Student Members.....30	New Members6
Supporting Members.....1	Current Member Total....340

Welcome New PST Members

- Angelique Barber ~ Spring, Texas
- Becca Denney Goodwin ~ Fort Worth, Texas
- Sandi Horton ~ Waco, Texas
- Adraianne Pamplin ~ Longview, Texas
- Elena Lelia Radulescu ~ Katy, Texas
- Annie Harmon Work ~ Elgin, Texas

Keep our membership roll up to date.

Contact Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (*not Linda Banks*) if there is a change in your contact information: Address, Phone, or E-mail address. Contact Lynn at elsquared59@yahoo.com

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ...

meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month from September through May at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library at 5626 Royal Lane in Dallas, Texas. The exception is November when the annual Awards Banquet is held at a Dallas area hotel.

Contact e-mail for *Bulletin* Editor, Valerie Bailey
vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com.

Poetry Society of Texas
610 Circle View Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces 11 book donations: 2 in June, 7 donated at the Summer Conference in July, 2 more in September. All presented at the September meeting.

Unstinted, by Ted O. Badger

Animal Phonics for Children-One-Minute Poems, by Vicki Lee
Her Texas: Story, Image, Poem and Song, edited by Donna Walker-Nixon, Cassy Burlison, Rachel Crawford, and Ashley Palmer

Baker's Dozen, by Naomi Stroud Simmons

A Slam Poetry Manual: How to Produce a Poetry Slam and Succeed as a Slam Poet, by Michael Baldwin.

Smallest Leaf, A Collection of Poetry, by Lisa Toth Salinas, the 2014 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award winner

Upon the Blue Couch, by Laurie Kolp.

di-ver-city, 2011 and *di-ver-city 2012* (the 20th Anniversary Celebration Edition), Austin International Poetry Festival Anthologies, edited by Barbara Youngblood Carr.

A Galaxy of Verse, Spring/Summer 2015, edited by Barbara Blanks

Budding Poets—Youth of Johnson County, edited by Becky Burkheart

Send book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed under the Executive Board. They will be kept in the PST's permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

President:

Catherine L'Herisson
518 Grinnell Drive
Garland, TX 75043
972-270-4994
catherinepoet@juno.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Jessica Gonsoulin
150 Enterprise Drive, #2332
McKinney, TX 75069
jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com

Director:

Beth Ayers
8117 Alderwood Place
Plano, TX 75025
bta1955@hotmail.com

Director:

Susan Maxwell Campbell
115 North Wisteria
Mansfield, TX 76063
814-473-6314
maxcamp2@att.net

Treasurer:

Aman Khan
6717 Talmadge Lane
Dallas, TX 75230
aman1963@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary/
Librarian**

Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
barbarablanks@aol.com

Director:

Barbara Terrell Goerdel
7704 Velvet Antler Trail
Arlinton, TX 76002-4326
817-419-3383
bgoerdel@att.net

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis

1704 Enderly Place • Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-921-9322 • elsquared59@yahoo.com