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Out With The Old, Etc.: 2008 TDNA Board of Directors

The TDNA Board welcomes three new members as 2008 begins and says goodbye to three stalwarts on the board. Joining the board this year are Mike Graxiola of the Paris News, Patrick Canty of the Odessa American and Bill Patterson of the Denton Record Chronicle. Mike is a long-time Southern Newspapers publisher, while Patrick has spent most of his career with Freedom Newspapers. Bill runs the newspaper his family owned before it was bought by the Belo Corporation.

Leaving the board this year are Jeremy Halbreich, CEO for American Consolidated Media, Midland Reporter-Telegram Publisher Charlie Spence and New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung Publisher Doug Toney. Jeremy, Charlie and Doug all did outstanding jobs as board members and will be missed.

TDNA Working On Public Notice Website

TDNA, in conjunction with the Texas Press Association, is developing a website that will provide a central location for all public notices published by Texas newspapers. The website is a response to an effort by a North Carolina company last legislative session to have the state contract with it to create a public notice website. Though that effort failed, we will be in a better position to defend public notices continuing in newspapers if we develop our own website.

As you know, press associations around the country have faced similar legislation in recent years and one thing that has helped them stem the tide has been having their own public notice website. We need participation from as many newspapers as possible. The technology we are using will "scrape:" public notices

from your website; the only thing we will need from you is the name of an IT person to contact if there is a problem. We are excited about the project and will provide you more information, and a test website, when it becomes available.

Two Publishers Take Over In January

Two Texas dailies, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and the Longview News-Journal, officially have new publishers as of January 1.

In Fort Worth, Gary Wortel assumes the title of President/Publisher after the retirement of Wes Turner. Wes, a former TDNA president, was Star-Telegram publisher for 10 years. He and his wife Shirley will divide their time between Fort Worth and Southern California. Gary comes to Fort Worth from Myrtle Beach, where he published the McClatchy-owned newspaper there. He has spent most of his career with the Knight-Ridder chain, which was bought by McClatchy in 2006. Gary and his wife, Patti, have four children: Erin, 25, Garrett, 21, Elise, 19 and Patrick, 8.

Gary Borders is the new publisher at the Cox newspaper in Longview, taking over for Glenn McCutchen. Gary is in the process of moving to Longview from Lufkin, where he held a similar position with Cox. A community newspaper veteran, Gary is the author of several books on Texas newspapers. He is also TDNA president for 2008.

San Antonio To Host 2008 TDNA Annual Meeting

The Westin Riverwalk Hotel will be the site of the 2008 TDNA Annual Meeting on March 9 to 11. The meeting will feature presentations on the state of the newspaper industry by Hearst's George Irish and Lauren Rich Fine, former media analyst for Merrill Lynch. We will also hear from Steve Murdock, the native Texas who has been appointed U.S. Census bureau, about demographic trends and what they might mean for your business. Sessions on the Associated Press' new content options, the future of public notices, online issues facing newspapers and a best-

ideas session will give you plenty of information to use in running your newspaper.

Information-packed programs will be balanced with time for networking with newspaper colleagues from around the state. The TDNA golf outing will begin at 8 a.m. on March 9 at the Resort Course at La Cantera. An opening reception at 6 p.m. that evening will provide a great chance to catch up on old friends and make new ones. The Monday awards dinner will feature presentation of TDNA's Mayborn Award and Pat Taggart Award. For more information, go to our website or watch your mail for a packet that is coming soon.

Annual Recycled Newsprint Survey Due January 31

To promote paper recycling, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality annually surveys Texas newspaper printers and publishers on their use of recycled newsprint and newsprint with postconsumer recycled content. The 2007 report is due on January 31. For more information, including forms and background on the program, go to the TCEQ website at http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/newsprint/newsprint.html