



TETAF UPDATE October 5, 2011

2011-2012 TETAF Budget Approved

With guidance from the TETAF Finance Committee the TETAF Board approved the 2011-2012 TETAF Budget on September 29, 2011. The budget maintains the RAC subscription fee levels at the 2010 and 2011 rates as well as the trauma and stroke survey fees adopted in 2010. While the budget will maintain these fee levels it will also allow for: the expansion of TETAF educational opportunities, the continuance of the webcasting of GETAC meetings, the continued pursuit to provide quality services in providing trauma and stroke surveys, increasing communications with subscribers and members on TETAF activities and opportunities, and the aggressive pursuit of grant opportunities in the EMS, trauma and acute health care systems. Thank you to all that participated in this multi-month process.

TETAF Stroke Symposium

The TETAF Level III Stroke Support Facility Symposium will be held tomorrow, Thursday, October 6, 2011, at St. David's Medical Office Building in Austin. Topics to be covered will include:

- How to Become a Texas Stroke Support Center
- Essential Criteria: Texas Stroke Support Center
- Data Collection & Process Improvement
- Pre-hospital Assessment
- Emergency Department Nursing Assessment & Management
- Application Completion

CNEs will be provided for participants. Registration information can be found at www.tetaf.org or specifically at:

http://www.tetaf.org/TETAF_Docs/Save%20the%20Date%20Stroke%20Symposium%20Sept%202011.pdf

TETAF Board of Directors Nominations

TETAF is now accepting nominations to serve on the TETAF Board. **To be nominated to serve on the Board each Subscribing RAC should submit nominations for individuals to serve on the TETAF Board by November 3, 2011.** To make a nomination please go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011TETAFBoardNominations>

Currently there are four positions up for election on the TETAF Board. The positions up for election are:

- **Vice-chair** – currently held by David Rives from SETRAC, Houston
- **Secretary** – currently held by Dudley Wait with Schertz EMS
- **Board at Large #1** – currently held by Eric Epley with STRAC, San Antonio
- **Board at Large #3** – currently held by Scott Christopher with Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital

TETAF Board of Director Requirements

The term of office for each board member shall be for a period of two years. Each board member must be a representative of a voting, subscribing organization in good standing. There are no term limits and no geographic or demographic requirements for any position. Elections will be held at the November 2011 face-to-face meeting in Austin and will be elected by a simple majority of the voting subscriber organizations of TETAF that are present for the election.

The board has three legal duties:

- **A duty of obedience** to the charitable purpose of TETAF, a duty that should be demonstrable in all the board's decisions.
- **A duty of loyalty**, to act based on best interests of TETAF and the wider community it serves, not the narrow interests of an individual or stakeholder group.
- **A duty of care**, to be diligent in carrying out the work of the board by preparing for meetings, attending faithfully, participating in discussions, asking questions, making sound and independent business judgments, and seeking independent opinions when necessary.

The role of the board is to govern, not manage, TETAF. To that end, the board carries out four roles:

- Help establish and approve the ends and goals of TETAF
- Make policies and decisions to support those ends
- Oversee performance and exercise accountability for results
- Build relationships with the organization's key stakeholders

The TETAF Board participates in all TETAF General Meeting calls and quarterly face-to-face TETAF General Meetings that occur in conjunction with GETAC. Additional meetings of the Board may be scheduled as needed, most via conference call, including at least one strategic planning meeting held yearly. TETAF does not pay individuals for their service on the TETAF Board. Any travel expenses are the responsibility of the individual.

Your input is very valuable and important to the future of TETAF! Each subscribing RAC may submit nominations by completing the short survey. Nominations will be placed on a formal ballot which will be distributed to all RACs and voted on at the November TETAF General Meeting in Austin.

Division Chair Elections

With re-alignment of the TETAF Divisions in 2011 all divisions will elect or re-elect chairs to lead their division. The TETAF Divisions are as follows:

- Acute Care
- Education/Injury Prevention
- EMS
- Pediatrics
- RAC
- Trauma

The TETAF divisions should accept nominations for chair and hold an election on or before the November 19, 2011, TETAF General Meeting in Austin. Those elected to serve as chair should participate in any regular activities of the Division. As well as leading the Division they are elected to chair, these individuals will also serve on the TETAF Board of Directors. Roles and responsibilities for the TETAF Board of Directors are listed above.

TETAF Trauma Surveyor Candidates Approved

The TETAF Trauma Surveyor selection process is stringent and many strong candidates applied this year. Applicants were scored on their experience, expertise and dedication to the Texas Trauma System. Candidates approved are: Marvin Cloud, RN; Robin Gage, RN; Gina Pickard, RN; Terri Rowden, RN; Lori Vinson, RN; Dr. Raj Gandhi; Dr. Richard Ranne; and Dr. David Smith. All candidates are now required to complete the Trauma Surveyor Course to be held later this month. Following successful completion of this course, candidates will complete two internship surveys before becoming credentialed to survey with TETAF. Thank you to all that applied and congratulations to these trauma champions!

TETAF Submits Comments on Emergency Road Signage

On September 14, 2011, TETAF submitted comments to the Texas Department of Transportation on the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. In its comment letter TETAF attempted to clearly differentiate the unique differences between the many components of the trauma and emergency health care systems. Oftentimes the many components are simply piled into one "pot". The importance of clearly marking in any road signage the different components of the trauma and emergency health care systems will lead to better patient care. Hospitals, those hospitals that are designated trauma facilities, use of the "Star of Life" emblem and free standing emergency care facilities were all addressed in the TETAF letter which can be viewed on the TETAF website. Thank you to those that provided suggestions for comment. Any updates to the proposed manual will be reported by TETAF through future TETAF communications.

Questions Raised Regarding TETAF Lobby Activities

The TETAF Board has held several discussions regarding any activities of TETAF that might be considered lobbying and how these activities might affect RAC funding. These discussions follow the release of recent Texas Department of State Health Services state contracts with RACs that contain emphasized language regarding not allowing lobby activities with state funds.

TETAF is consulting with its attorneys and is having a letter drafted on this issue to go to the attention of DSHS and to be copied to all RACs. The letter will be available for distribution this month. TETAF recognizes the sensitivity of this issue to the RACs and will keep all RACs informed of any communications and rulings made by the state.

Legislative Updates

While the Texas Legislature is in its interim phase, House and Senate Interim Studies could be released later this fall. TETAF is working with key leaders to discuss possible opportunities for study. Any suggestions for study should be forwarded to Dinah Welsh.

TETAF Fundraiser

What a great evening supporting TETAF! Thank you to all that attended and/or supported the TETAF Bat Cruise Fundraiser August 17. It was a great evening viewing the famous Congress Avenue Bats from the decks of the M.V. Pride and Joy. The fundraiser was a success with the support of the following sponsors:

Gold Sponsors

Heart of Texas RAC, and Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council

Silver Sponsors

Cook Children's Medical Center, Del Sol Trauma, Ronny and Sherri Stewart, and Strategic Public Affairs/Elizabeth & Andrew Biar

Bronze Sponsors

Craig Daniel, M.D., JPS Health Network, Steve Janda, Jorie Klein, RN, Newport Medical Instruments/Patti Gunter, Craig Ryhne, M.D., J. Neal Rutledge, M.D., Dan and Alice Stultz, and Rod and Dinah Welsh

Thank you to all TETAF Sponsors! Funds raised will help to support the continued mission of TETAF – to further develop the EMS, trauma and acute health care systems in Texas.

TETAF to Provide Internet Streaming of GETAC Committees and GETAC Meeting in November

On November 19-21, 2011, TETAF will live stream the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) Committee Meetings, including the council meeting, and should also be able to stream for the first time the next face-to-face meeting of TETAF on November 19. While these committees will be available to be viewed live they will also be available for archiving to view at a later date. To access the meetings you may link through the TETAF website – www.tetaf.org. TETAF is thrilled to offer this opportunity for more stakeholders to observe the GETAC meetings from their offices and homes but continues to encourage your live participation in the GETAC process.

Respectfully submitted,

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