



## PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

# Texas Soil Profiles

### 2018 PSSAT Officers

**President** - Carlos Villareal, USDA-NRCS, Temple

**President-Elect** - Dr. Donald McGahan, Tarleton State Univ.

**Vice President** - Dr. David Ruppert, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

**Treasurer** - Travis Waiser, USDA-NRCS, Kerrville

**Editor** - Jon Brandt, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi

**Past-President** - Chance Robinson, USDA-NRCS, Stephenville

### In this issue:

- PSSAT Annual Meeting (February 6, 2019) -- page 2
- Proposed Amendments to PSSAT Constitution and Bylaws -- page 2
- Texas Sunset Advisory Committee Decision -- page 4
- Soils News -- page 5
- Call for Newsletter Articles -- page 5
- PSSAT Absentee Ballot -- page 6

## PSSAT President's Message, from Carlos Villareal



*Happy New Year, PSSAT!!! We typically see the New Year as an opportunity to start fresh. Maybe you've decided it's a time to quit a bad habit or adopt better ones. If so, I wish you luck and happiness with your pursuit.*

*I'd also like to take the opportunity to invite you to renew your commitment to PSSAT. Whether it's been a few years since you've been an active member or served on a committee; there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Feel free to reach out to me by email or phone if I can answer any questions for you.*

*There will be a few changes to be aware of regarding the PSSAT meeting this year. We've decided on a new venue in Rudy's "County Store" and Barbecue in College Station. There will be plenty of space, great food, and plenty of camaraderie! Visit the PSSAT website for further details and we look forward to seeing everyone on February 6th.*

*I would like to thank the PSSAT officers, committee members, and active members for your work this year. I am proud of the accomplishments this year and it has been an honor to serve as your President.*

*Cheers, folks!*

*Carlos J. Villarreal*

*PSSAT President*

## Professional Soil Scientists Association of Texas Annual Meeting

February 6, 2019 - 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Que, 504 Harvey Road, College Station, TX 77840

The meal will cost \$15/person and be served buffet style. It will include ½ lb of up to 3 proteins, 3 sides, and a drink. Bottled beer is available to purchase separately (no outside alcohol is permitted).

Agenda:

- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 6:00 - 6:15 p.m. Dinner Service
- 6:15 - 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker (to be announced soon)
- 6:45 - 8:30 p.m. PSSAT Business Meeting

One of the important items that will be discussed during the business portion of the meeting are proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of our organization - see next item.

## Proposed Amendments to PSSAT Constitution and Bylaws

The organization's Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) were last amended in 2016 - the document is available online, at the following URL: [http://www.pssat.org/PSSAT\\_CONST\\_BYLAWS\\_FEB2016.pdf](http://www.pssat.org/PSSAT_CONST_BYLAWS_FEB2016.pdf)

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee represented by chairman, Jamey Douglass, presented several items for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting. These proposals and some others suggested by Chance Robinson and Jon Brandt are presented for your consideration.

Typographical errors or inconsistencies due to changes outside the control of PSSAT:

**1. In Constitution Article VI Section 3 strike the words "if the Association".**

*Section 3. Eligibility for retention of an elective office if the Association shall be contingent upon residence in the state.*

**2. In Constitution Article IX Section 1 replace the word "but" with "by".**

*Section 1. The location of the headquarters of the Association shall be determined ~~but~~ [by] the Council.*

**3. In Bylaws Article IX Section 1 strike the words “Soil Survey Horizons shall be the official publication and”.**

Section 1. ~~Soil Survey Horizons shall be the official publication and~~ “Texas Soil Profiles” shall be the official newsletter.

**4. In all instances within the Constitution or Bylaws where a hyphen is used for the title of “Vice President” replace the hyphen with a space. (i.e. change “Vice-President” to “Vice President” or change “vice-president” to “vice president”.)**

Proposals to better reflect operations and governance of the Executive Council:

**1. In Constitution Article VIII Section 3 strike the words “The Council shall hold at least two meetings each year.”**

Section 3. ~~The Council shall hold at least two meetings each year.~~ All meetings of the Council shall be called by the president or upon petition of the majority of the Council.

**2. In Constitution Article X Section 3 change “January 1” to “Annual Meeting”.**

*Section 3. The chairman of each standing committee shall be selected by the Council prior to the Annual Meeting. The committee chairman shall be announced at the Annual Meeting after the officers for the following year have been elected. The remaining members of the standing committee shall be appointed to the following ~~January 1~~ [Annual Meeting].*

Proposal to better reflect actual duties and responsibilities of the offices of Vice President and Treasurer:

This proposal seeks to retain the duties of recording minutes with the office of Vice President, but to transfer other duties to the office of Treasurer or Editor respectively. These amendments also seek to clarify the current practice of issuing a membership certificate rather than membership card.

**1. In Bylaws Article II Section 1b and 1c change “Vice President” or “Vice-President” to “Treasurer” and change “card” to “certificate”.**

*b. The membership committee will evaluate all applications according to Article III of the PSSAT Constitution and forward them to the ~~Vice President~~ [Treasurer]. The ~~Vice President~~ [Treasurer] will notify applicants of the Membership committee’s decision, and will either issue a membership ~~card~~ [certificate] to those accepted or refund the initial dues payment to those rejected.*

*c. A candidate for honorary membership shall be nominated by any member of the Association in good standing at a regular or special meeting of the Association. If the nominee is approved by a majority vote of a legal quorum, the ~~Vice President~~ [Treasurer] shall complete the processing and issuance of a membership ~~card~~ [certificate]. An honorary member shall be elected for life, or until such time as the membership is revoked by a majority vote at a special or regular meeting of a legal quorum for just and sufficient cause.*

**2. In Bylaws Article VI Section 1 change “Vice-President” to “Editor”.**

*Section 1. The Nominations Committee shall report the names of the nominees, for each office of the Association to the ~~Vice President~~ [Editor] in time to circulate the names to the membership no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual Meeting.*

**3. Bylaws Article VII Section 3 strike beginning with the second sentence of 3b and strike the entirety of Section 3c as follows:**

*b. The vice-president shall keep accurate records of the Association membership and proceedings of Association and Council meetings. The vice-president shall have custody of all books, papers and documents. The vice president will inform the president and the Council, from time to time, of duties to be performed at stated times or at stated intervals. The vice president will issue all calls and notices as instructed by the president of the Council. The vice president will maintain a complete record of past members of the Council and officers for the purpose of establishing information for appointment or election.*

*c. The Vice President shall circulate the names of the nominees for each office of the Association to the membership no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual meeting.*

**4. In Bylaws Article VII Section 4 insert the portions struck from Section 3b as a separate paragraph changing the vice president to treasurer as follows:**

*[b. The treasurer shall have custody of all books, papers and documents. The treasurer will inform the president and the Council, from time to time, of duties to be performed at stated times or at stated intervals. The treasurer will issue all calls and notices as instructed by the president of the Council. The treasurer will maintain a complete record of past members of the Council and officers for the purpose of establishing information for appointment or election.]*

**5. In Bylaws Article VII Section 5 insert the portions struck from Section 3c as a separate paragraph changing vice president to editor as follows:**

*[e. The Editor shall circulate the names of the nominees for each office of the Association to the membership no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual meeting.]*

## Texas Sunset Advisory Commission Decision

Good news: the following was posted on the home page of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists' website -

“On Wednesday November 14, 2018, the Sunset Advisory Commission voted 10-2 to continue the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG) through September 1, 2025. The Sunset Advisory Commission also adopted a number of new recommendations to the Texas Geoscience Practice Act, which are listed in the decision. The new recommendations and the continuation of the TBPG will require the Texas Geoscience Practice Act to be amended in the upcoming legislative session.”

The Texas Sunset Advisory Commission decisions regarding the TBPG are available here:

<http://www.pssat.org/PSSATDocs/TexasBoardofProfessionalGeoscientistsCommissionDecisions.pdf>

## Soils News

Coastal Marsh Sampling - Ed Janak attended a soil sampling and training exercise related to coastal marshes in Mississippi last October. He has graciously shared a trip report that summarizes the sampling and training and includes excellent photographs of the sampling efforts and equipment involved. The field trip report is available on the PSSAT website: [http://pssat.org/FieldTrips/TripReport\\_MarshSampling.pdf](http://pssat.org/FieldTrips/TripReport_MarshSampling.pdf)

Soil Health - researchers at two universities (Virginia Tech and the University of Idaho) compiled peer-reviewed articles from 1943 through 2015 that were related to soil health. This “meta-analysis” of soil health research produced a list of 42 soil health indicators. The authors suggest that a common set of indicators should be measured and reported in research, thereby facilitating literature reviews and planning future efforts related to soil health evaluations. Story found here: <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/csa/pdfs/63/12/4>

Wildfire Effects on Soils - Researchers from Los Alamos National Laboratory are looking at the water balance at sites after large wildfires. Factors that affect soil and vegetation conditions have implications for site recovery and water management planning after wildfires. Story found here: <https://www.soils.org/discover-soils/story/fire-effects-soil-moisture-runoff>

## Call for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles, information, or photos that are suitable for future newsletters to: [editor@pssat.org](mailto:editor@pssat.org)

Thank you!

PSSAT Absentee Ballot

February 6, 2019

Nominees:

President-Elect (2-year term): Laurie Kiniry, Soil Scientist (retired, USDA-NRCS), Moody

Vice President (1-year term): Cole Patton, Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS (MLRA 86 & 87), Bryan

Treasurer (2-year term): Travis Waiser, Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS (MLRA 81/82A), Kerrville

Editor (2-year term): Jon Brandt, Soil Scientist, TerrEval Consulting, Corpus Christi

Write-In Nominees:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This ballot is for those PSSAT Members who are unable to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting. Please circle the nominees' names if you concur with the Nomination Committee's selections. You can also nominate alternative members to the above positions. Return your ballot to Travis Waiser. His address follows: **Travis Waiser, 146 Deerpark Lane, Kerrville, TX 78028**. Please mail ballots before January 29, so they will arrive in time for Travis to take them to the Annual Meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>.