



OUTLOOK

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Texas Association of
Healthcare Volunteers, Inc.
www.tahv.org

Pre-Conference 2026

CONFERENCE 2026

June 9—11, 2026

The 82nd Annual TAHV Conference will be held from Tuesday, June 09 - Thursday, June 11 at the Embassy Suite Hotel and Conference Center by Hilton in San Marcos, TX. Enjoy this recently renovated hotel right off I-35, halfway between San Antonio and Austin. Three days packed with education and informative events starting on Tuesday, June 09 with outstanding and educational speakers for Opening Session, Uniform Luncheon, the breakout sessions and don't forget Bingo Night!

Hotel rates for your conference stay is \$179.00 per night with a free made to order breakfast and a complimentary evening reception. Book your room separately from your all inclusive package.

The all inclusive package includes your registration fee, Opening Session boxed lunch, an evening at the President's Party with dinner, and the Uniform luncheon for \$179.00 per person. Favorite events will include the popular networking session BYOI - Bring Your Own Ideas, informative and educational sessions for your volunteer program, awards, vendor fair, silent auction, door prizes and raffles, and the installation of the new TAHV officers for 2026 - 2027. Further information for the all inclusive package and the hotel reservations can be found at <https://tahv.org>

Make it a vacation and bring your family! Enjoy the San Marcos and Tanger Outlet Malls just an exit away, as well as the Meadows Center Glass Bottom Boat Tours, and Wonder World Cave and Adventure Park. Come early and stay late to enjoy everything the 2026 TAHV Conference and San Marcos has to offer....See you in San Marcos!



The rooms are set, the programs are phenomenal-come be a part of it all!



**Texas Association of
Healthcare Volunteers
Conference 2026
June 9-11, 2026**

Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center
San Marcos Texas

**SAVE THE DATE AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND
YOUR
2026 TAHV CONFERENCE!**

President's Message

Dave Westerhaus
President
Texas Association of
Healthcare Volunteers



Hi, folks!

We just finished our winter board meetings and I have to tell you, we were crazy busy planning the state conference! I am pretty sure more than one board member was seen fast walking to the board room. Here's a sneak preview...

The first night is Bingo, and our board members always contribute great prizes. We'll have desserts, soft drinks, and a cash bar.

Bring your sneakers for an eye-opening "Walk With Dave" on the second day, followed by a great selection of educational and interactive breakout sessions.

We'll end the day with the country-themed President's Party, featuring good ol' Texas barbecue and all the "fixins," a DJ, line dance lessons, and an official cocktail called the Giddy Up! (I wanted stick horse races, but cooler heads prevailed.)

Enjoy the uniform luncheon on the final day, and cheer on our award winners!

Need more? How about door prizes, a silent auction, goody bags, BYOI, and ETV raffles.

And the best part? That's meeting and learning from your fellow volunteers! Make new friends and reconnect with old ones because we have such an amazing group of people from all over Texas.

I'll see you down the road in San Marcos!

Giddy'up and Join us at the President's Party!

Shine your boots and put on your best western wear to join in at the President's Party!

Dinner will be Texas BBQ and all the fix'ins!

Enjoy Line Dancing and whooping it up with your friends and colleagues!

See ya there!



"Here in Texas, lending a hand isn't just a choice—it's part of who we are. Helping others isn't just duty; it's a way of life, wrapped in big hearts and even bigger boots."



President's Pins — How to Get Yours This Fall

Many members usually purchase the President's Pin at one of the fall District Meetings. Please note if you weren't able to attend a district event this year, you can still get your pin by ordering directly from President Westerhaus or by visiting the marketing table at Conference 2026. After conference, the pins will not be mailed.

To help keep shipping costs down, please order in quantities of **five or more**. A small shipping fee will apply. Pins are **\$5 each**.

To order, please email Dave at:
dlwtex_tahv@icloud.com

Thank you for your support and for wearing your President's Pin with pride!

Send articles/pictures for the Outlook!!! - Let's learn from and celebrate one another!

Share the stories and successes of your volunteer group. Do you have special traditions or unique fundraisers-we'd love to hear about them...and don't forget the pictures. What does your auxiliary plan to do to reactivate and attract new volunteers? Share your stories.

Send to: tahvoutlook@gmail.com

Why attend the annual Conference?

When you first sign up for your State Conference for Healthcare Volunteers, you might almost talk yourself out of going. It can feel easier to stay home than to spend days surrounded by strangers wearing name badges. But the moment you walk into the opening session and see volunteers from across the state—serving in rural clinics, urban hospitals, and mobile outreach programs—you realize something powerful: you're not alone. The conference isn't just an event; it's a reminder that your individual acts of service are part of a much larger mission to strengthen community health.

Throughout the weekend, you'll attend workshops on patient communication, public health outreach, and volunteer leadership. You'll hear stories that expand your understanding of compassionate care. More importantly, you'll connect with others who have faced the same challenges—burnout, limited resources, and balancing service with daily responsibilities. Those conversations can reignite your sense of purpose. The conference offers fresh ideas, practical tools, and renewed motivation to bring back to your local team.

To optimize your experience, approach the conference with intention. Before you arrive, review the agenda and select sessions aligned with your goals. During the event, introduce yourself to new people each day, ask thoughtful questions, and take notes to share with your organization. Step outside your comfort zone by participating in roundtable discussions and contributing during breakout sessions. Rather than attending passively, choose to engage fully—that's where the real value lies.

By the time you return home, you may understand why attending the State Conference matters. It's not just professional development; it's community building, inspiration, and renewal. Healthcare volunteering can be demanding, but gathering with others who share your commitment reinforces why you started in the first place. Show up prepared, participate actively, and follow up afterward—and the conference can become more than a weekend event. It can be a meaningful turning point in your journey of service.

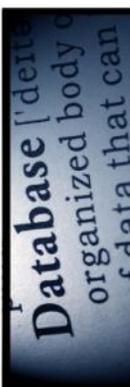
Share with your vendors...they need to be at Conference 2026!

The Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV) is excited to host its 82nd Annual State Conference, taking place June 9–11, 2026, in San Marcos at the beautiful Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel Conference Center. As part of this highly anticipated event, TAHV will once again feature its Vendor Fair—an outstanding opportunity for businesses to connect directly with healthcare volunteer leaders from across Texas.

We encourage our member hospitals to share this information with your valued vendors and community partners. The Vendor Fair offers companies a prime platform to showcase products and services to an expected 350–400 volunteers representing more than 200 healthcare facilities statewide. This is a unique opportunity for vendors to build relationships with decision-makers and influencers who support and enhance hospital volunteer programs throughout Texas.

Vendor set-up will take place on Tuesday, June 9, from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Vendor Fair will be open to conference attendees from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. that day. On Wednesday, June 10, the Vendor Fair will run from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a complimentary box lunch provided to vendors at 12:00 p.m. These two full days of engagement allow vendors ample time to network, demonstrate products, and foster meaningful partnerships.

Applications and guidelines for participation will be available online, at TAHV.org. Completed applications and fees must be submitted by May 18, 2026. For additional information, vendors may contact Vendor Fair Co-Chairs Sue Kaulfus (830.305.0501, bskaulfus@yahoo.com) or Jimmie Sue Garrett (713.249.3524, garrett1201@yahoo.com). We appreciate your help in sharing this opportunity and look forward to welcoming an outstanding group of vendors to our 2026 Vendor Fair.



WE NEED YOUR DATABASE UPDATES
You can find the
"Member Update" form
on the **TAHV Website** at www.tahv.org
Use the form throughout the year to keep your
information current so you don't miss anything!
Download or Print the Form
Send to: Sandra Pybus
74 Heathrow Ln; Sugarland TX 77479
Phone: 832.500.4814
Email to: stpybus@sbcglobal.net



"ASK THE PARLIAMENTARIAN"
Call Mary Ann Almendarez with your questions
832-363-7955

Showcase your excellence at the 2026 Awards Competition

The Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV) invites volunteer groups across the state to participate in the 2026 Awards Competition at this year's Annual Conference in San Marcos. This is your opportunity to highlight the creativity, dedication, and impact of your volunteer program while competing among peers from similarly sized facilities. We encourage every member group to consider entering one—or several—of the many available award categories. Compete in scrapbook, tray favors, newsletter or poster.

To participate, all volunteer groups must submit an "Intent to Enter" form, available on TAHV.org under "2026 Conference Information" and "2026 Conference Awards." The completed form must be received by the Awards Committee Chair no later than **May 9, 2026**. Groups entering the competition must be members in good standing of TAHV. Once your form and payment are received, you will receive an email confirmation. Be sure to carefully review the judging criteria posted online. While you do not need to bring the forms to conference, they clearly outline what judges will be evaluating. Adhering to the guidelines is essential, as failure to follow the stated requirements may result in disqualification.

An important part of the process is confirming the correct number of licensed beds for your facility as designated by the State of Texas. This information—available from your DVS (Volunteer Coordinator), Administrator, or CEO—determines the category in which your entry will be judged, ensuring fair competition among hospitals, hospices, and nursing facilities of similar size. If your facility does not have beds, please list "0." The licensed bed number must be consistent on all submitted forms.



Check out the website at TAHV.org for more information and instructions. We encourage your group to take part in this exciting tradition—celebrate your accomplishments, share your best ideas, and let your program shine among fellow healthcare volunteer leaders across Texas.

Past President's Award of Excellence-Celebrating Outstanding Achievement

The Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV) proudly invites Auxiliaries and Healthcare Volunteer Organizations to apply for the prestigious Past President's Awards of Excellence. These awards honor groups that have gone above and beyond in service, leadership, and innovation within their facilities and communities.

Awards are presented in three distinguished categories:

- **Outstanding Achievement in Hospital/Hospice In-service**, recognizing ongoing projects that benefit patients, families, or healthcare staff
- **Outstanding Achievement in Community Service**, honoring impactful outreach programs that address a specific community need; and
- **Outstanding Achievement in Fundraising**, celebrating creative and well-executed fundraising efforts where strategy and innovation are valued as highly as the funds raised.

To be considered, submissions must be received no later than **April 15, 2026**—no exceptions will be granted. Eligible projects must have been implemented within the past ten years, and entering organizations must be TAHV members in good standing. All questions on the Description of Entry Form must be completed using the required five-part format.

Entries should be submitted to:
Dave Westerhaus, President
5438 Imogene Street
Houston, TX 77096
Phone: 713-819-4522
Email: dlwtex_tahv@icloud.com

We encourage your organization to share its success story and take part in recognizing the exceptional work being done by healthcare volunteers across Texas.

"In Texas, we don't just talk about helping others—we roll up our sleeves and get it done. Service is in our blood."



Blue Men making a big difference in Snyder!



L-R: Cloyce Scarberry, Charles Church, David Bozeman, Charles Ragland, Robert Bailey, Jack McDonald, James Highsmith, Eddie Williams, John Billings, David Holt

**Celebrating a Major Milestone!
Texas Health Fort Worth Auxiliary**

Celebrating a Major Milestone! We're proud to announce that the Texas Health Fort Worth Auxiliary has officially fulfilled its \$1.25 million pledge to support the construction of the Justin Tower! This incredible commitment began in 2018 with an initial \$750,000 installment and was completed in November 2025 with the final \$50,000 payment. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the success of annual vendor sales and other fundraising efforts, this achievement will make a lasting impact on patient care and our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this journey! Together, we make a difference.

Celebrating an Extraordinary Milestone

The Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers is proud to celebrate one of our own! TAHV Board Member Gay Box has received a prestigious award recognizing her outstanding commitment to healthcare volunteering—a well-deserved honor that reflects a lifetime of service.



For an incredible 50 years, Gay has faithfully volunteered at Shannon Medical Center, touching countless lives with her compassion, dedication, and steady leadership. Five decades of service is more than a milestone—it is a legacy. Her commitment has strengthened her hospital, inspired fellow volunteers, and embodied the very heart of what healthcare volunteering represents.

Congratulations, Gay! Your generosity, perseverance, and selfless spirit set a shining example for us all. TAHV is honored to serve alongside you and celebrate this remarkable achievement.

In Snyder, the “Pink Ladies” of the Cogdell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary are especially proud of a unique and valued group within their ranks—10 dedicated “Blue Men” who are making a meaningful impact every day. At a time when male healthcare volunteers remain limited in number nationwide, these gentlemen are helping broaden the face of volunteerism and demonstrating that service truly knows no boundaries.

The Blue Men bring energy, warmth, and a welcoming presence to Cogdell Memorial Hospital. Whether they are greeting patients and visitors at the front door, assisting individuals with wheelchairs, selling popcorn with a smile, or welcoming members at the wellness gym, their contributions add a new and vibrant dimension to the Auxiliary’s work. Their involvement not only supports hospital operations but also strengthens the spirit of teamwork and camaraderie within the volunteer program.

Having male volunteers visible and engaged sends an important message to the community—that healthcare volunteering is for everyone. The Blue Men serve as role models, encouraging other men to step forward and share their time and talents in service to others. Their participation helps create a more inclusive volunteer environment and reflects the diverse community the hospital serves.

Volunteering is good for the heart, good for the community, and good for those who give their time. The Pink Ladies and Blue Men of Snyder prove that when individuals come together in service, everyone benefits—and the entire hospital family shines a little brighter because of it.

A fresh new look at Texoma Medical Center

In 2024, the Texoma Medical Center Volunteers took an exciting step forward. For the first time in nearly 16 years, the gift shop received a much-needed refresh. During the renovation, the shop closed for a month while volunteers creatively transformed a small conference room into a temporary mini mart—ensuring patients, visitors, and staff could still enjoy convenient shopping while improvements were underway.

When the doors reopened, the transformation was remarkable. Fresh paint brightened the space, new slat wall displays modernized the layout, updated lighting added warmth, and a new cashier stand provided a polished finishing touch. The shop looked beautiful—almost. The floral department still featured its longtime display cabinet, which suddenly felt out of place in the newly updated surroundings.

Inspired by the neighboring coffee shop, volunteers began searching for a solution and discovered plant stands with built-in grow lights online. After a few hours of assembling, rearranging, lifting, and even putting power tools to use, the floral area was completely reimagined. The results were stunning—sleek, fresh, and perfectly aligned with the shop's new look.

Customers have been overwhelmingly complimentary of the upgrade. The volunteers remain committed to keeping the gift shop inviting and attractive, creating not just a place to shop, but a pleasant refuge within the hospital. Through teamwork, creativity, and a little elbow grease, they've created a space that truly reflects the heart of their service.

Out with the Old...



In with the New!



STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK



www.tahv.org

Check out the TAHV website. Updates on conference, board actions and more.

Want to contribute?

Contact Mary Pfeffer; email: tahv.org@gmail.com or call her cell at 903.271.9243

Don't forget to FRIEND us on Facebook

From your Facebook page, search for Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers.



HEALTH MATTERS

Stay healthy, stay energized: Conference Wellness Tips

As you prepare to attend this year's statewide conference, a little planning can go a long way in helping you feel your best. Conferences are exciting and energizing—but they can also be busy, physically demanding, and full of schedule changes. With most of our attendees age 60 and above, it's especially important to prioritize your health so you can fully enjoy the experience and return home feeling inspired rather than exhausted.

Plan ahead before you pack. Be sure to bring all medications in their original containers and pack a little extra in case of travel delays. Keep medications in your carry-on if flying. Comfortable, supportive shoes are a must—conference centers and hotels often require more walking than expected. Dress in layers to adjust to varying room temperatures, and consider packing a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. If you use mobility aids, double-check that they are in good condition before leaving home.

Pace yourself during the conference. It's tempting to attend every session and activity, but building in short breaks can help prevent fatigue. Sit when you can, stretch between sessions, and avoid standing for long periods. Stay hydrated and don't skip meals—balanced nutrition helps maintain energy and focus. If you have dietary restrictions, review meal options in advance and plan accordingly. Remember, it's perfectly fine to step away for a few quiet minutes if you need to recharge.

Prioritize rest and connection. A good night's sleep will make each day more enjoyable and productive. Try to maintain your usual sleep routine, even in a hotel setting. Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with fellow healthcare volunteers, but listen to your body and know when it's time to wind down. Most importantly, wash your hands frequently, carry hand sanitizer, and be mindful of close contact if you're feeling unwell.

Attending conference is about learning, sharing, and celebrating the incredible service you provide

throughout the year. By taking a few simple health precautions, you can focus on what matters most—fellowship, education, and inspiration—while keeping your well-being front and center. Safe travels, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Why considering serving on the TAHV Board?

Serving on the board of the Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV) is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact on healthcare volunteering across the state. Board members play a vital role in supporting and guiding local volunteer groups, sharing expertise, and ensuring that volunteer programs thrive in hospitals, hospices, and nursing facilities. By serving, you help shape the direction of TAHV and contribute to the growth and success of volunteer programs statewide.

Board leadership also provides a rich platform for education and collaboration. Members help organize and deliver training, resources, and guidance that empower local volunteer groups to operate more effectively and creatively. From advising on best practices to helping volunteers develop innovative community programs, serving on the board allows you to share your experience while learning from others who are equally dedicated to healthcare service.

One of the highlights of board involvement is helping plan the TAHV Annual Conference, which draws over 300 attendees from across Texas. This event offers networking, skill-building, and recognition opportunities for volunteers while showcasing the best practices and achievements in the field. Being on the board doesn't mean you must have served on your local auxiliary board; the state board can be your first step into leadership. Serving on the TAHV board is more than a leadership role—it's a chance to leave a lasting impact on healthcare volunteers and the communities they serve.





Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers
1108 Lavaca, Ste 700
Austin TX 78001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Kudos are expressions of appreciation or recognition given to acknowledge someone's efforts, achievements, or positive contributions. Recognizing others with kudos boosts morale, reinforces positive behavior, and fosters a supportive and motivating environment. In both personal and professional settings, giving kudos helps build stronger relationships, encourages continued effort, and creates a culture of gratitude and respect.

Kudos to the Conference 2026 Team and Committees! Looking forward to a fabulous Conference 20206!

Kudos to the marketing department, look for exciting TAHV branded items to buy at the 2026 Annual Conference!

Kudos to all healthcare volunteers across Texas: your dedication, compassion, and tireless service make a difference every single day. From hospitals to hospices, clinics to community programs, you bring care, comfort, and hope to countless lives. Thank you for your selfless commitment—you are the heart of healthcare in our state!

**Something's missing here?
Can you guess what it is?**

Here's a couple hints:

- It's black and white and read all over
- It made an impact once already
- It's too good not to SHARE!



That's Right—It's your article!
Submit to: tahvoutlook@gmail.com