

ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE AND REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR EAST TEXAS RECEPTION



Join us for the third bi-annual East Texas Reception in Austin, Texas! The East Texas Council of Governments cordially invites all East Texas elected officials, civic, business and not-for-profit leaders to join us as we visit with our legislators in Austin and let them know what is important to East Texans.

An evening reception will be held at the historic Hotel Ella, formerly the Mansion at Judges Hill, to honor the work of our legislators as they are in session.

East Texas Reception
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Hotel Ella
 1900 Rio Grande Street
 Austin, Texas 78705

Become a Sponsor! Sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 - \$5000 and include a wide array of sponsor benefits.

Attend the East Texas Reception! Admission to the event is \$70.00 and it includes valet parking. Registration is required.

Register and pay for your sponsorship or attendance online at www.etcog.org/518/East-TX-Reception.htm

JUDGE THOMAS CRAVEY NAMED VP OF TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS BOARD



Judge Cravey & the 2015 TARC Officers (L to R: The Honorable Maurice Pitts, The Honorable Thomas Cravey, The Honorable Wes Suiter & The Honorable Daniel Burkeen).

On September 26th, Judge Thomas Cravey of Camp County took Oath of Office to serve as Vice President of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Board; the statewide association assists the regional councils in strengthening their capabilities to serve their local government members. Cravey serves on the board as a representative of the East Texas Council of Governments.

TARC is governed by the Board of Directors which is made up of local elected officials who serve on the governing boards of member regional councils.

"I am interested in serving as an officer of TARC because I have seen the results that can be achieved by cooperation and working collectively toward common goals," said Judge Thomas Cravey. "Regional efforts draw greater attention to needs and result in benefits to a wider population. Regionalism is a way for my county to have a voice and an impact at the State level. I strongly support the work of the COG's and TARC."

Officers took their oath in Austin at the TARC Annual Board of Directors Meeting. The term expires October 2, 2015.

"Judge Cravey's distinguished record of public service to Camp County, the ETCOG region, the Corporation of Texas Regionalism and TARC is both stellar and meritorious of recognition. We are honored that he calls East Texas his home, said ETCOG Executive Director, David Cleveland."

AREA AGENCY ON AGING TO ASSIST SENIORS WITH MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT AND “EXTRA HELP” PROGRAM OFFERING PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE

Making ends meet should not mean going without your medications. If you have limited income and resources, you may qualify for Extra Help to pay for some health care and prescription drug costs. The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas (AAA) provides seniors an opportunity to speak with a certified benefits counselor to see if they qualify for Extra Help and assist with selecting a Medicare plan. On October 15, Open Enrollment will begin for Medicare beneficiaries to decide which Medicare plan is right for them, and if so, which plan they should choose. The AAA will be conducting Open Enrollment Events and providing one-on-one assistance for Medicare Open Enrollment until it closes on December 7th.

Drug costs in 2015 for most people who qualify for Extra Help will be no more than \$2.65 for each generic drug and \$6.60 for each brand-name drug. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates that more than 2 million people with Medicare may be eligible for Extra Help, but aren't currently enrolled to take advantage of these savings. A recent law changed how your income and assets are counted:

- Life insurance policies don't count as resources
- Any help you get from relatives, friends, and others to pay for household expenses—like food, mortgage, rent, heating fuel or gas, electricity, water, and property taxes—doesn't count as income

There will be several presentations throughout the Area Agency on Aging's 14-county region during the Open Enrollment period. Those who cannot attend a presentation, but would like to speak with a certified benefits counselor, please call the AAA for assistance at 1-800-442-8845 or 903-218-6500.

ETCOG RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the East Texas Council of Governments by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for 2013. The Certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the department designated as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to the East Texas Council of Governments Operations Division.

“The Excellence in Financial Reporting award has been bestowed upon the East Texas Council of Governments for thirteen straight years and counting! This is a particularly impressive achievement when you consider the fact ETCOG currently manages over 80 different funding streams on behalf of the East Texas region” stated Executive Director David Cleveland. “I am proud of our entire Operations team and all the staff of ETCOG who work hard every single day to ensure that our financial reporting is accurate and transparent for our funding agencies and the general public”.

ETCOG's 2013 CAFR can be viewed at etcog.org. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

East Texas Council of Governments

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www.etcog.org

ETCOG is an Equal Opportunity Employer / Program. Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY); 1-800-735-2988 (Voice); 1-800-662-4954 (Español).

