2019 Capital Conference  
Tentative Workshop Sessions  
University of Texas at Austin ★ AT&T Conference Center and Hotel  
Tuesday, June 25 - Wednesday, June 26, 2019

PRE-CONFERENCE

- **Academic Coordinators and Coaches.** We will cover tips on recruiting, planning and organizing effectively, as well as dates and forms resources and where you can get help. This is an overview for the academic coordinator for creating a successful UIL Academic program. New and experienced coaches are welcome to join in the conversation. David Stevens, state academic director.

- **Computer Applications: Where is it Going?** We are seeking feedback about the relevance and future of this contest. We need ideas to increase interest and participation, recommendations for changes to the test format, difficulty level or grading, with discussions for any other topics that may come up. Current and former computer applications coaches, as well as those with ideas for other UIL business competitions are encouraged to attend this roundtable audience discussion. Linda Tarrant, state contest director and others.

- **Spotlight Session for Beginning Speech Coaches.** For novice coaches. Meet your UIL Speech, Debate and Congress Director to share with you an overview of the UIL speech and debate high school forensic program. Rules and important dates will be reviewed. Watch student demonstrations of several contests and share your questions to get the answers you need for a successful start to your coaching career! Jana Riggins, state speech director, student performers.

- **Cross-Examination Debate Judge Training.** Qualifying a policy debate team to state means providing a well-trained judge for the tournament. Coaches are encouraged to fulfill that judging obligation. Avoid the time-consuming effort and needless cost to your district to hire a judge by getting trained and confident as a judge. Even veteran coaches can benefit from the discussions generated in this training that includes examining judging paradigms, ethics and effective ballot-writing. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University

- **Be Safe and Look Cool.** Stage Combat with Lito Tamez Part 1.

- **Model Set Building.** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepeada.

- **UIL One Act Play: How to transform a good OAP to a great OAP and make a lasting impression.** For Junior High and High School Directors. A Conversation with award winning OAP Theatre Director, Contest Manager and former Adjudicator. Larry Wisdom, Van HS and Sue Wisdom.

- **A+ Pre-Conference.** Attend A+’s pre-conference session for a speedy review of recent changes to the A+ Handbook as well as a few other contest procedures. I will also highlight the A+ sessions offered at the conference including A+’s first keynote speaker, Natasha Tillman from Houston ISD. Lisa Parker, state A+ director.

- **Introduction to Robotics.** Robotics is now an official UIL activity! This session will provide an overview of the changes in moving to official status, program rules and structure, and an introduction to the BEST Robotics and FIRST Robotics competition programs.

- **Computer Science In-Depth Java Workshop Pre-conference and continuing.** This special workshop features two days of detailed hands-on instruction in the basics of computer science and Java programming. It’s designed for teachers who have limited experience but who plan to work with computer science for UIL competition, with material that can also be useful in the classroom.
Be sure to register for the pre-conference session - the workshop will begin during that time slot Tuesday morning and continue throughout Tuesday and Wednesday.

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**HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC COORDINATORS / COACHES**

**ACADEMIC COORDINATORS**

- **Building UIL Academic Champions.** A UIL academic coordinator with over 15 years of experience gives you tips of the trade on how to recruit students and coaches to develop a championship level team. Randy Harris, Conroe ISD.

- **Hosting a Meet.** Have you gotten wrangled into hosting your district's UIL meet? Or maybe contemplating an Invitational to earn money for your program? Come ready to learn some tried-and-true tricks for being in charge of a meet without (completely) losing your mind! Melonie Menefee, Buffalo HS.

- **Coordinating UIL in a Small School.** A panel discussion focused on the unique needs of a small school followed by a question and answer session. Leslie Graham and Carol Cox, Archer City HS; Christy Coulter, Jayton HS; Gary Brister, Hico HS and Jodie Reel, Guthrie HS.

- **Coordinating the Game.** UIL is a big game. The best results come when strategy, hard work and preparation, and good old-fashioned luck come together. The 2017 and 2018 5A UIL State Academic Sweepstakes Champion school's coordinator will talk through some of the strategies that are useful for programs that don't have the depth across the events, but still have the ability to have great results at district, region, and state. Rory McKenzie, Lindale HS.

- **General Topics for UIL Coordinators.** A plan to get through your first year or your tenth, including plenty of Q&A opportunities. Kimberly Kass, Argyle HS.

**ACCOUNTING**

- **PART 1: What’s New in UIL Accounting?** New Concepts and New Twists on the Old Stuff. Problem Solution Demonstrations from the 2019 District and Regional Tests. Please bring a laptop or electronic tablet to view the online handouts used during this session. LaVerne Funderburk, CPA, state contest director.

- **PART 2: What’s New in UIL Accounting?** New Concepts and New Twists on the Old Stuff. Problem Solution Demonstrations from the 2019 State Test. Please bring a laptop or electronic tablet to view the online handouts used during this session. LaVerne Funderburk, CPA, state contest director.

- **ABC's: Accounting Basics and Coaching Forum.** A quick review of the basics of the contest and tips for new and veteran coaches from a panel of coaches with state level experience. Please bring a laptop or electronic tablet to view the online handouts used during this session. LaVerne Funderburk, CPA, state contest director.

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**

- **Computer Applications Getting Started up to Invitational A.** BYOC (Bring Your Own Computer) for a workshop aimed at coaches just starting out but will also be a great refresher for coaches at all levels. Full of introductory information for this contest, this session will present enough hands-on Excel and Word to teach your competitors enough to get through Invitational A. Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Kirby Rankin.

- **Computer Applications: On to Invitational B and District.** BYOC! A hand-on session, this will cover basic Access to get your participants through Invitational B and many of the skills that crop up at
District. This session is for both new and experienced Computer Applications coaches. Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Kirby Rankin.

- **Computer Applications – Region and State.** BYOC! Yipes! This is a fast-paced session covering everything else we can think of for advanced contenders. This session is a deep dive into Microsoft Access and Excel and probably some high-level Word skills. This session is primarily for seasoned coaches and will probably outpace new coaches, who are welcome but may not be able to keep up. Linda Tarrant, state contest director and Kirby Rankin.

**CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS**

- **Using Current Events in the Classroom.** Discuss some strategies for how and why any classroom from science to government to history to math should include current events. Then get some tips for student success in the Current Issues and Events competition including why it's so important to practice essay writing. Bradley Wilson, state contest director.

- **Preparing for the Essay Portion of the CI&E and Social Studies Contest.** Techniques and examples to write an essay that gives students the best chance to receive the full 20 percent of the total score. Andrew Bates and Bradley Wilson, state contest directors.

**ESSAY CONTESTS**

- **All about Essay Contests.** Learn how to prepare your students to be state essay finalists for the Latino Historical Essay Competition and Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition

**JOURNALISM**

- **The Ws and H of Leaguetown.** This session will cover resources to help you prepare your students for the UIL Journalism Contests. We have Powerpoints, prompts, a contest manual and more. We also will talk about building a team and creating a culture of excellence and will have a Q&A to address the specific challenges and questions coaches who attend may have. Carol Cox, Archer City HS and Melonie Menefee, Buffalo HS.

- **What Happens in Leaguetown. . .** This session will cover resources to help you prepare your students for the UIL Journalism Contests. We have Powerpoints, prompts, a contest manual and more. Jeanne Acton, state contest director.

- **Why Everyone Needs a Copy Editor.** Come learn about a strategy for teaching copy editing in any classroom. Take a trial (and never before seen) copy editing test. Then review strategies for winning. Bradley Wilson, state contest director.

**LITERARY CRITICISM**

- **Literary Criticism: Beginners: A Foundational-level Introduction to the Contest.** Experienced coaches are welcome! Bring your questions. Mark Bernier, state contest director.

- **We Murder to Dissect.** An overview of Parts 2 and 3 of the Literary Criticism test with explication of poetry as the focus. Mark Bernier, state contest director.

- **Literary Criticism: The 2019-2020 Reading List.** An introductory overview of this year’s reading list, Vonnegut's *Player Piano*, Shakespeare’s *Othello*, and selected poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Mark Bernier, state contest director.

- **Tropes and Schemes and Figures of Speech.** A walk through the Handbook with an eye on the more common, the easily confused, literary concepts used in the Literary Criticism Contest. Mark Bernier, state contest director.

**READY WRITING**

- **Rhetoric, Reading, and Writing: A Back to Basics Approach to Ready Writing.** This presentation will focus on tips and strategies a current Ready Writing coach uses to prepare prospective writers for
competition. Included in the discussion will be prospective writer selection, practice/competition scheduling options, and reading and writing strategies for effective writing and successful competition experiences. The state director will also offer suggestions and strategies. Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director and Britt Rodriguez.

- **A Close-Reading and Analysis of the 2019 State-Winning Essays.** Participants will read, analyze, and discuss last year’s Ready Writing prompts, and selected State Winning Essays. Ruben Rodriguez, state contest director and Britt Rodriguez.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

- **In-Depth with Social Studies.** A discussion of the key components of this year’s topic and its areas of focus with sample questions and essay topics. Andrew Bates, state contest director.
- **Preparing for the Essay Portion of the CI&E and Social Studies Contest.** Techniques and examples to write an essay that gives students the best chance to receive the full 20 percent of the total score. Andrew Bates and Bradley Wilson, state contest directors.

**SPELLING**

- **Becoming a Spellebrity.** Strategies that lead to success in UIL Spelling and Vocabulary. Linda Berrey, state contest director.
- **Spelling & Vocabulary Practice Test 2020.** Applying rules learned in Session #1 to 2019-2020 Word List. Linda Berrey, state contest director.

**STEM & ROBOTICS**

- **Calculator Applications.** Session information to be posted.

- **In-Depth Java Workshop (pre-conference and continuing).** This popular workshop features two days of detailed hands-on instruction in the basics of computer science and Java programming, taught by experienced CS educators (and UIL state champion coaches). It’s designed for teachers who have limited experience but who plan to work with computer science for UIL competition, with material that can also be useful in the classroom. Be sure to register for the pre-conference session that begins the workshop! Delta McFarland, Needville HS and Terry Morris, Orange LCM HS.

- **Mathematics**

  - **I THINK, therefore, I do MATH. --- I do MATH, therefore I THINK.** This session is designed to assist NOVICE high school Mathematics coaches; however, everyone is welcome. We will discuss: the contest rules and the make-up of the test; efficient uses of the calculator on the test; some strategies for practicing and test taking; ways to integrate the contest into the everyday classroom; and any questions that arise. Larry White, state contest director.

- **Number Sense**
• Mental Math: Where does a beginner begin in UIL High School Number Sense Contest? Do you know your ONESIES? How about your squares, cubes, etc.? Where does one begin? This session is designed to assist NOVICE coaches; however, everyone is welcome. We will discuss: the contest rules; types of problems from the "NEW" sequence chart; available resources; coaching techniques; practice techniques; test taking strategies; and any questions that arise. Larry White, state contest director.

• There are NO TRICKS in Number Sense! HS Number Sense Shortcuts Session 1. This session will be broken up into 2 parts to demonstrate and discuss the types of problems and shortcut from the "NEW" sequence chart. Part 1: Problems # 1- 20. (novice), Part 2: Problems #21- 40. (novice). Participants are encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. Larry White, state contest director.

• There are Still NO TRICKS in Number Sense! HS Number Sense Shortcuts Session 2. This session will be broken up into 2 parts to demonstrate and discuss the types of problems and shortcut from the "NEW" sequence chart. Part 3: Problems #41- 60 (advanced), Part 4: Problems #61- 80 (advanced). Participants are encouraged to bring problems from each section they would like to discuss. Larry White, state contest director.

Science

• Science Trek: The Next Generation. A complete overview of the science contest, how to prepare your students and what to expect from the test writers. Includes a roundtable discussion about topics of interest to you and that you want the test writers to know. Brian Anderson, David Bixler & Michelle McGehee, state contest directors.

• Preparing for the Biology Portion of Science. A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2019-2020 UIL season, including any addition of possible topics, and a Q&A session on 2019 problem questions. Michelle McGehee, state contest director.

• Preparing for the Chemistry Portion of Science. A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2019-2020 UIL season, including any addition of possible topics, and a Q&A session on 2019 problem questions. Brian Anderson, state contest director.

• Preparing for the Physics Portion of Science. A demonstration of how the contest director comes up with questions, an overview of what to expect in the 2019-2020 UIL season, including any addition of possible topics, and a Q&A session on 2019 problem questions. David Bixler, state contest director.

Robotics. The conference will feature a full track of Robotics sessions, including the following:

• Session Topics will include:
  o Competing for the BEST Award
  o Keys to Success in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC)
  o The BEST Engineering Design Process
  o Launching and Building a FIRST Robotics program in your school district and more!
  o Check back for updates as presenters and session topics are added.

Presenters will include: Rad Allen, Vandegrift HS; Andrew Haub, Hutto HS; Charles Logston, Allen HS; Stevie Mayberry, Allen HS; Sylvia Wood, Rouse HS; and additional presenters.
COACHING SPEECH & DEBATE

- **Coaching Strategies.** For novice and veteran coaches. Garnish the best ideas of how to coach forensics successfully from experienced coaches.
- **Motivating the Unmotivated.** For novice and veteran coaches. UIL speech provides a place for kids to belong. But how do you motivate students that are uninvolved so they can be a part of the “speech family”? This presenter shares ideas to reach that very student!
- **Putting the Pieces Together.** A successful coach shares the essential pieces of the puzzle and how to put them all together to build a strong forensic program. Noah Recker, La Vernia HS
- **First Things First: A Frank Conversation About Taking Care of #1.** As coaches, the focus of our professional development always seems to be bettering ourselves for the sake of our students. We rarely consider bettering ourselves for the sake of our own selves. In this session, two coaches at different points in their careers – one near the beginning and another nearing the end – will share how they prioritize their health and well-being while still managing successful programs. Unquestionably, we give a lot of ourselves as coaches. We give our undivided attention. We give our hearts. We give our time. Perhaps, for once, we should take care. JP Fugler, Lindale HS, Larry Wisdom, Van HS
- **Professional Development: Online Coach Training.** Become aware of what’s available online in helping you develop as a speech coach.
- **It’s the Journey…Not the Destination.** For novice and veteran coaches. A panel of veteran educators share bits of wisdom they have gained along their journey of coaching speech and debate. Come be inspired! Moderator, Jana Riggins
- **Building & Maintaining Physical & Mental Health in Stressed-Out, Anxious, Overwhelmed Students.** For novice and veteran coaches. Studies show young people are more anxious and feel more stress than ever before Physical and mental health is in jeopardy. Add competitive events to their schedules and they may experience a meltdown. This seasoned coach will share strategies of how to help teens manage stressful times and build a stronger foundation. M’Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College
- **G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech).** For novice and veterans alike. An annual favorite, carousel from one presenter to another to discover innovative lesson plans, classroom activities, and coaching techniques. Take home new ideas to jumpstart or rejuvenate your curriculum and coaching practices. Audience participation and having fun is required! Jana Riggins, facilitator

ORAL INTERPRETATION

- **High School Prose and Poetry: For Beginning Coaches.** For novice coaches. Where do I begin? Join us for a discussion of contest rules, fundamentals for turning students into interpretive readers and tips, tricks and reminders that can make you a confident coach.
- **Premiering the New Prose & Poetry Categories.** 2019 – 2020 brings new literary categories in high school prose and poetry. Come learn the details of each category. Jana Riggins, UIL State Director, M’Liss Hindman, State Contest Director and the current UIL Prose & Poetry State Advisory Committee
• **A Road Map to the New Prose & Poetry Categories.** State Advisory committee members share ideas and resources as a road map for researching and preparing performances for the 2019-2020 interpretation categories. M’Liss Hindman and State Advisory committee members

• **Perfecting the Performance.** It’s the little details that make all the difference in polishing a performance for competition. Examine how to get the most out of your competitors with a legendary coach of 49 years! Larry Wisdom, Van HS

• **Don't Underestimate the Power of an Introduction.** This discussion will explore strategies for writing that all-important introduction that will set apart your student’s performance from all the rest. M’Liss Hindman, Tyler Junior College and TJC students

• **Writing Effective Interp Ballots.** For novice and veteran coaches. A judge’s evaluation of a performance should be one that not only critiques but educates. We’ve all come home with that ballot that said “Good! Good!” but your student is ranked last in the round. This session will provide training in how to write strong performance ballots. Jana Riggins, UIL State Speech Director

• **Caveats of Copyright.** Learn important details of copyright laws and how they impact competitive interpretation competitions.

**EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**

• **The Basics of Coaching Extemporaneous Speaking.** For novice coaches. What is Informative and Persuasive Speaking and how do you coach them? This session covers the contest rules, procedures and strategies, for coaches and students excelling in Extemporaneous Speaking competition.

• **Developing Higher Level Speaking Competitors.** For veteran coaches. This session will offer strategies for students who already know the “directions” so you can coach them to develop into confident, successful competitors. Examine practice session techniques to take them to the next level of success.

• **What Makes a Winning Speech?** For novice and veteran coaches. What are the elements judges expect to hear in a student’s extemporaneous speech and what common things seem to be missing?

• **Extemporaneous Speaking Sources.** For novice and veteran coaches. A champion coach of Informative and Persuasive Speaking discusses selecting and integrating sources within speeches effectively.

**CONGRESS**

• **Congress 101: Understanding the Contest.** For novice coaches. A discussion that focuses on the structure, rules and mechanics of the Congress contest.

• **Connecting Skills for Forensic Success.** For novice and veteran coaches. Whether preparing for an extemporaneous speech or a congressional debate round, the foundation is the same. This workshop offers ideas for teaching students how to formulate an argument that will facilitate their ability to develop speeches, particularly for extemp and congressional debate. From the basic parts of an argument to strategies for organizing it; from researching to selecting what to use in rounds, gain a new perspective on the value of enabling students to develop skills that will transfer through multiple events.

• **Training for Congress Region Clerks and Region Committees.** For veteran coaches. If you serve as clerk or on the committee, plan to attend as state UIL staff discuss important issues concerning region result submissions, state legislation, and other details that will enhance your region contest. Region Clerks: Bring one problem you’ve encountered along with the solution you implemented to share with the group, as well as one brag about your regional contest. Jana Riggins, UIL State Congress Director, Jenny Nichols, UIL staff
• **The Keys to Developing Congressional Legislation.** For novice and veteran coaches. Oftentimes, chamber legislation is lacking in uniqueness, quality and correct agent to implement the policy. A key component to effectively coaching Congress is teaching students how to choose issues that will make strong legislation which will then produce good debate. Discussion will include how to instruct your students on selecting strong subject matter, researching in-depth before designing the legislation and then preparation for presenting it to the chamber. Tonya Harper, Whitesboro HS

• **Training Effective Presiding Officers.** Students often are fearful of serving as presiding officer because they aren’t certain of the skills it takes or they think it will be a disadvantage to scoring high in the chamber. This session discusses philosophy of taking on the role, skills involved and preparation

**DEBATE**

• **A Firm Foundation Part I: Beginning Policy Debate for Novice Coaches.** For novice coaches. An explanation of cross-examination debate UIL rules, policy terminology, basic theory.

• **A Firm Foundation Part II: Policy Debate Teacher Tools.** For novice and veteran coaches. A continuation of policy debate discussion from Part I with a focus on teacher resources, including teacher training tools, lesson plans and activities for different levels of experience.

• **CX Debate Topic Analysis (Part I).** For novice and veteran coaches. Hear an introduction to the 2019 –20 policy debate resolution, including a discussion of the terms in the topic and basic affirmative cases. Resource materials provided. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University

• **An Extended Look at the CX Topic (Part II).** For novice and veteran coaches. This session will explore additional affirmative cases beyond those covered in the CX Topic Analysis session, Part I. In addition, numerous generic negative positions on the new topic will be examined. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University

• **CX Debate Judging Training: Paradigms & Ethics.** For novice and veteran coaches. This session counts toward the judge training certificate. An overview of the various judging paradigms in policy debate including terminology and mechanisms for reaching decisions in rounds. Judges will consider their own predispositions and write a judging paradigm that will assist debaters in adapting their arguments accordingly. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University

• **CX Debate Judge Training: Effective Ballot Writing.** For novice and veteran coaches. This session counts toward the judge training certificate. An examination of how to write an educational and informative policy debate ballot. Dr. Rich Edwards, Baylor University

• **Advanced Policy Debate: Taking Your Debaters to Another Level.** Discussion of advanced theory and strategies.

• **Lincoln Douglas Debate for Beginning Coaches.** For novice coaches. Getting familiar with value debate, including the format, speaker responsibilities, and case construction of LD Debate.

• **Framework: The Heart of LD Debate.** For veteran coaches. Much like the wise man, building a solid framework is essential to working through difficulties. This presentation will focus on using framework arguments to build cases on multiple topics. This session will not be about critical debate but will approach the competitive benefit of using the first minutes of a constructive into a mechanism that can control the narrative of the rest of the round.

• **Varsity LD: It’s All About Fundamentals.** For veteran coaches. Success in varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate is often attributed to knowing all kinds of unique and esoteric arguments. This presentation will demonstrate that success at all levels and all regions is really all about mastering fundamental refutation skills and weighing techniques.

• **Varsity LD: It’s All About Clash.** For veteran coaches. This session will dialogue on how to refute your opponent’s arguments more effectively.
• **UIL Film for the Busy Sponsor**: Afraid you can't add yet another event to your already overloaded schedule? Don't know where you would even start? Never fear! Join us to see how a busy teacher can still build a thriving film department. Chris Rector, Sabine Pass HS.

• **Theatrical Design for Beginners.** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepepa, PSJA North HS.

• **Falling with Style: Stage Combat Falls.** Stage Combat with Lito Tamez Part II.

• **OAP—no money, no stage, no degree, no problem.** Leslie Graham and Becky Nogle, Archer City HS and Gary Brister, Hico HS

• **Starting on the Right Foot: Licensing and Copyright for UIL One Act Play.** The Play approval process and the business of securing licenses for OAP performance and other plays/musicals. Discussion on the editing, submitting for approval for UIL as well expectations from publishers like Samuel French and Dramatics. K’Lynn Childress, Jersey Village HS.

• **A Total Theatre Experience: Film, OAP and Theatrical Design.** Kim and John Fryman, Mount Enterprise High School. (Same session will be repeated.)

• **Capitals, Countertops, and Wraps-Six Minutes and No Sweat.** Kim and John Fryman, Mount Enterprise High School.

• **Theatrical Design Tool Kit.** Double Session Part I. Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepepa, PSJA North HS.

• **Theatrical Design Tool Kit.** Double Session Part II. Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepepa, PSJA North HS.

• **What now, you ask? One Act Play updates for 2020.** A session for New and Experienced Theatre sponsors including planning, organizing, deadlines and finding resources. Paula Rodriguez, State Theatre Director.

• **Acting Power:** Coaching your actors during OAP session to make specific acting choices. Reed Chappell, Seminole HS.

• **Filmmaking for Beginners Part I.** Beginning to End: The story of the story featuring the story behind the story in story form. Kent Smith, Celina HS.

• **Filmmaking for Beginners Part 2.** Beginning to End: The story of the story featuring the story behind the story in story form. Kent Smith, Celina HS.

• **Filmmaking for Beginners Part 3.** Beginning to End: The story of the story featuring the story behind the story in story form. Kent Smith, Celina HS.

• **Filmmaking for Beginners Part 4.** Beginning to End: The story of the story featuring the story behind the story in story form. Kent Smith, Celina HS.

• **Directing the OAP from a Small School Perspective.** Travis Walker, Abbott HS.

• **The Four F’s:** Focus, Fuel, Fire and Feedback. The four focus techniques, acting strategies and motivation tools. JJ Jonas, Salado HS.

• **Numbers and Rulers and Groundplans, Oh My!** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepepa, PSJA North HS.

• **From the Director’s Chair: Is UIL OAP a challenge that intimidates you?** My first principal threw me into OAP as an English/Social Studies teacher. The terms, Up Stage Left/Down Stage Right, seemed like a foreign language, and I’ve made a lot of mistakes in 30 years of directing. This session will give you hacks from choosing plays that fit your kids to tools to help coach characterization. Handouts are available. Cindy Couch, Shallowater Middle School and High School Theatre
- **State Champion Panel.** The panel includes directors from 2019 State Champion shows sharing tips, trend strategies and advice. JJ Jonas, Saldo HS.
- **A Triple Threat Ideology: OAP, Theatrical Design and Film.** Johnny Trillayes, Charlie Palacios, Sergio Sauceda and Jaclyn Benavides, PSJA Southwest HS.
- **Creating Life-Changing Culture: Inspiring for Greatness.** Suzanne Ray, Montgomery Lake Creek HS.
- **One Act Play, Planning the Production from Summer to Spring.** Kim and John Fryman, Mount Enterprise High School.
- **Getting All Dolled Up for Theatrical Design.** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepeda, PSJA North HS.
- **Production Concepts.** Steward Savage, Carnegie Vanguard HS.
- **Projections are Nice, but Not Necessary.** How can you incorporate the use of digital design into your production? A Q&A on projections.
- **Marketing 101.** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepeda, PSJA North HS.
- **Directing the One Act Play: Your people, purpose and end production.** Suzanne Ray, Montgomery Lake Creek HS
- **The Director as Playwright.** Directing your own work for competition. Moderated by Michael Avila. Nelly Garcia, Zapata HS; Mandy Conner and Magda Mirelez
- **Theatrical Design: Theatrical Design Prompt Release.** Be the first to see this year's 2019-2020 prompt and handbook and get all the details on what your students will need to complete for the play. Rachael Gomez, Theatrical Design Contest Director
- **Creating Student Leaders.** Steward Savage, Carnegie Vanguard HS
- **The Secret to Theatrical Design-Photography.** Bryan Honl and Jackie Zepeda, PSJA North HS.
- **TTAO.** A conversation with Members of the Adjudication Organization.

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**A+ ACADEMICS for grades 2-8**

- Keynote Address, Natasha Tillman, Houston ISD
- **A+ Panel Discussion.** Get those burning questions answered as you participate in the Q&A panel discussion from some of the A+ pros. Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD; Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS, Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD; Natasha Tillman, Houston ISD.
- **Hands-On Calculator Applications Workshop.** Elementary and Junior High problem solving with the HP and TI models. Bring your calculators! Andy Zapata, state A+ math consultant.
- **Host with the Most (Organized Event!).** Crystal Boyd, Eanes ISD.
- **A+ Rules Overview.** Important UIL rules to know for A+ coordinators, including eligibility, contest rules and procedures, grading and verification, and Q&A. Lisa Parker state A+ academics director.
- **How to Coach the Music Memory Contest.** Come and learn some basic tips and tricks to coaching the UIL’s oldest contest! Bring some standard headphones just in case! Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD.
- **Oral Reading and Storytelling Techniques, Tips and Tricks (Fake it ‘til you make it).** If you are looking for how to get started, how to get better or how to win it all, this session can give you the information. From your own preparation to recruiting, piece and story selection,
rehearsal techniques, contest day procedures- you will have the information to be successful and the motivation and skills to find out how to improve. Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS.

- **Beginner Chess Workshop.** This workshop will be geared to people who do not know how to play chess. We will go over the basics of Chess, the UIL test, and discuss the best way to prepare for it. Alex Onischuk and Claudia Munoz, Texas Tech.

- **Session for A+ Coordinators.** Natasha Tillman, Houston ISD.

- **How Hard Can Listening (Skills) Be? Super Easy!** Crystal Boyd, Eanes ISD.

- **Successfully Host a Middle School District UIL Meet (One that Everyone Wants to Emulate When They Host!).** Timeline will be provided as well as tips and tricks to help it run smoothly. It is a big school event, and the principal at our school gets everyone involved. Advanced planning, committee chairs, jobs for the entire faculty, and directions for visiting schools make it a fantastic meet. Mark Hopkins, Del Valle ISD.

- **I’m a New Coordinator . . . HELP!!** The scenario: You’re checked out of your campus for the last day of school. You are walking out when your principal stops and informs you that YOU will be the new coordinator of the UIL A+ program. YIKES! Not to worry… we are here to help! Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD. Room

- **Real Men (and Women) Teach Middle School Theater and/or Direct the Middle School One-Act Play.** Whether you are an experienced teacher, new teacher, veteran OAP director, newly assigned OAP director or anything in between. This session has information to assist you with curriculum, classroom management, show selection, auditions, rehearsals, and performances that will make the process an enjoyable and productive experience for all involved. Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS.

- **Coaching Championship A+ Speech Students: MOTIVATION for Modern Oratory, IMPROVEMENT for Impromptu.** Information, techniques, activities and research to ensure that your students are ready for A+ competition in Modern Oratory and Impromptu Speaking. Ideas, research and direction for how to approach the Modern Oratory topics for 2017-2018. Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS.

- **A+ Number Sense.** Tips, techniques and strategies for success in the A+ Number Sense contest. Includes problem solving based on one of last year’s tests. Andy Zapata, state A+ math consultant

- **A+ Writing Events.** An overview of the A+ Editorial Writing contest, Creative Writing, and Ready Writing events. Carol Cox, Archer City ISD and Lisa Parker state A+ academics director.

- **How to Become Art Smart!** Come join an active session involving the Art Smart list. We will review the rules, examine the list and have some fun talking about art! Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD.

- **Hosting a Meet Made Easy.** With so many events and grade levels, hosting an A+ Meet can quickly become overwhelming, but these tips will make it go smoother and help you save your sanity. Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD.

- **Intermediate Chess Workshop.** This workshop will be geared to people who know the basics of chess. We will go over key principles of chess, the UIL test, and discuss the best way to prepare for it. Alex Onischuk and Claudia Muñoz, Texas Tech University.

- **Time Management When You Wear Many Hats.** Coach many events? Have several preps? Are your students as busy as you are? Come learn how we manage to still practice and communicate with students when everyone is so busy. Kimberly Sloane, Chireno ISD.

- **Team Approach to Success (Popular session for new and experienced coordinators, teachers and coaches).** A classroom, program and competition tested team building technique to get the most out of your students and coaches. Team-Approach to Success has been implemented throughout the state to assist teachers, coaches and coordinators to build strong competitive UIL programs and student-driven classrooms without discipline issues. If you want to win or if you just want to survive until Friday, the session will give you the tools to
get there. Updated with information from schools that have used the technique and had great results. Michael Mattis, Grand Saline HS.

- **Field Trip to the Blanton Museum.** You will be eligible to visit the Blanton Museum to view art work there at the conclusion of the previous Art session, and it will count as its own session. Nancy Garza, Pflugerville ISD.