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Letter from President Kara Larkan-Skinner

Greetings TAIR members,

I hope that your summer is off to a fantastic start. It was wonderful visiting with so many of you at the recent TAIR and AIR conferences. It gives me such pleasure to see so many of our members participating in professional development and growth opportunities. I believe this is a testament to both the organizations we work for, that believe in us and want (and need) us to bring back innovative solutions to organizational challenges, and to our members who find a way to attend these conferences despite budgetary challenges. I credit TAIR with giving me the essentials to grow in this profession, and the association and its members will always hold a special place in my heart. I am truly honored and humbled to serve as President of TAIR and am looking forward to the year ahead.

One of the greatest aspects of the TAIR organization is the wonderful people who put together our annual conference each year, especially the planning committee. The 2017 planning committee deserves extra accolades because of the myriad challenges that confronted them, from the committee planning chair resigning mid-year to a conference site that was "a little on the small side" for such a growing association; and a keynote speaker who got ill only moments before the closing session. It was interesting working with people from across the state and watching and learning how each one handles challenges differently. I think all of us have worked in groups and watched how a group can either come together or fall apart quickly. The planning committee for TAIR 2017 was an incredible group of people who took every challenge head on, never wavering or questioning, only persevering. For me, coming in as a mid-year replacement, T.S. Eliot captured the experience: *If you aren't in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?* I spent most of my time last year trying to catch up with the committee that moved full steam ahead no matter what obstacle was thrown at them. I would really like to take a moment to thank all of those individuals who worked so hard to pull off another exceptional conference in spite of challenges. It was an honor to work with such a professional and dedicated group.

Of course, a conference like ours would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. Thank you Austin Community College District, Interfolio, Sam Houston State University College of Education, SAS, Scantron, Tableau, Zogotech, Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE), and Nuventive TracDat for helping TAIR to provide high quality professional development for institutional researchers across the region.

Also, thank you to all of our members who attended the TAIR conference this year. It was a fun conference in Clear Lake. We had 240 attendees, and 130 people attended the NASA special event. I hope that you walked away from the conference with renewed energy and that you took away at least one new idea to implement at your institution. I also hope that you all will consider presenting at the TAIR 2018 conference.

As the executive and planning committees reflect on the TAIR 2017 conference, we also look ahead to our next opportunity for professional growth. Please make plans to attend TAIR's Summer Workshop on July 28, 2017. Marc Turner, the TAIR Professional Development Officer, has lined up a great set of workshops (see page 7). The summer workshops are an excellent opportunity to participate in hands-on learning and network with others across this great state of Texas.

The planning committee is already hard at work planning our next conference (February 11-14, 2018) in Corpus Christi. The committee has visited the facility and met with the hotel staff to discuss and plan the 2018 accommodations. The hotel is a great fit for our association and the hotel staff is excited to host this conference. We expect nothing less than the best in 2018.

I will see you all at the beach...in February! (If anyone wants to go sooner, just let me know. I'm always up for a day at the beach!)

Kara

TAIR is a wonderful opportunity for learning new skills and improving your existing skills. We want to make sure that funding doesn't get in the way of the opportunity to attend TAIR. To that end, a Travel Grant program is available to assist members who need some help funding conference travel.

Travel grants of **\$350 each** are available to help cover travel expenses for TAIR 2018. These grants are available to active members and those who will become new members for 2018.

The deadline to apply for a travel grant is **December 1, 2017**.

The TAIR Travel Grant Application and directions are available at http://www.texas-air.org/assets/pdf/Travel_Grants_Application.pdf

A Note from Teresa Isbell Vice President/Program Chair



What could be better than sun, sand, water and maybe a little pirate treasure in February? Add TAIR to the mixture, and you have the perfect cocktail of professional development and Texas heritage at a great destination. The 40th annual TAIR conference will be held February 11 – 14, 2018 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. Our “City by the Bay” has many attractions including the USS Lexington, the Texas State Aquarium, access to Padre and Mustang Islands, fishing, shopping, and many art and cultural attractions. This is a wonderful location, with lots of things to see and do for those who want to bring their families or extend their trip. Our hotel is on the water near the North Beach so the chances that you will have a view of the bay from your room are good, and you will also be able to take a stroll by the water. I hope you will plan to join us in Corpus Christi and bring back a treasure trove of information and lots of good memories of your time at the conference.

The theme for the 2018 conference is Data’s a BEACH. The winning theme was submitted by Nancy Kay Jones of UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, who received a \$50 Visa gift card. We received a lot of great suggestions, and I thank everyone who submitted entries.

We are continuing the cover design contest for this year. Our conference destination provides a lot of inspiration. Take this opportunity to show your creative side and have some fun with graphic design. Send me your design submissions by August 1, 2017.

We will host a series of pre-conference and post-conference workshops at the hotel. Marc Turner and the Professional Development

Committee are hard at work making sure there will be something for everyone.

TAIR is once again providing travel grants for those who need some financial assistance to attend the conference. Please see the sidebar for information on how to apply for a travel grant.

The Program Committee met in April to start planning the 2018 conference. We are working hard to make sure this is a great conference. Please help by submitting a proposal for a concurrent session or group discussion and share your ideas and your good work with your colleagues! Your participation is what makes TAIR successful.

Get ready to chase away the winter blues and join us for a great conference at a tropical Texas port. Plan your professional development outing for Data’s a BEACH!

Teresa



Meet the Executive Committee:



President:
Kara Larkan-Skinner
Our Lady of the Lake University
San Antonio, TX
(210) 431-5549
president@texas-air.org

Immediate Past President:
Soon Merz
Austin Community College
Austin, TX
(512) 223-7035
past-president@texas-air.org



Vice President:
Teresa Isbell
El Centro—Dallas CCCD
Dallas, TX
(214) 860-2016
vice-president@texas-air.org

Prof. Development Officer:
Marc Turner
Texas State University
San Marcos, TX
(512) 245-2386
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Secretary:
Amanda Clark
Blinn College
Brenham, TX
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Communications Officer:
Morgan Carter
Tarleton State University
Stephenville, TX
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communications@texas-air.org



Treasurer:
Paul Turcotte
Texas A&M Central Texas
Killeen, TX
(254) 501-5817
treasurer@texas-air.org

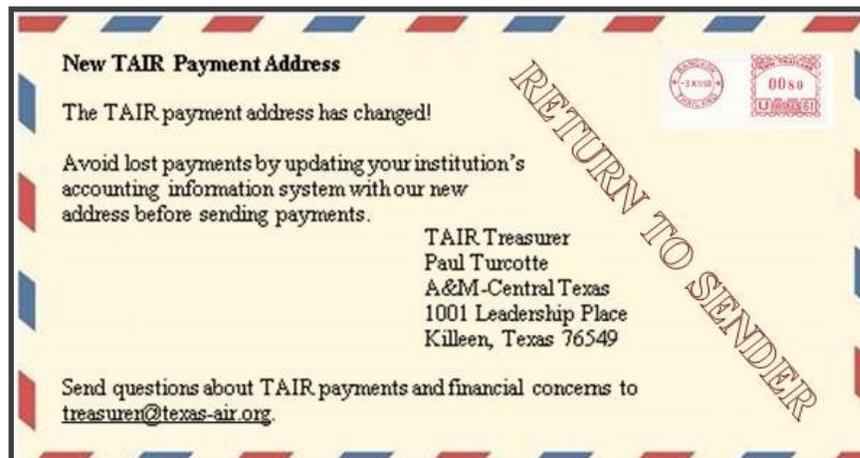
Appointments:

Electronic List Manager:
Faron Kincheloe, Baylor University

Liaison to AIR:
Kara Larkan-Skinner, Our Lady of the Lake University

Newsletter Editor:
Frances Frey, Our Lady of the Lake University

Web Developer:
Todd Moon, Austin Community College



TAIR 2018 Program Committee:

- Program Chair:**
Teresa Isbell, El Centro—DCCCD
- Concurrent and Discussion Sessions:**
Carmen Allen, University of Houston—Central
- Evaluations:**
Rick Leyva, Richland College—DCCCD
- General Sessions:**
Gabriela Borcoman, THECB
- Local Arrangements & Special Event:**
Soon Merz & Daniel O’Hanlon,
 Austin Community College
- Program Brochure:**
Frances Frey, Our Lady of the Lake University
- Session Coordinators:**
Teri Walker, College of the Mainland
- Sponsors:**
Daniel O’Hanlon, Austin Community College
- User Community Groups:**
Jacob Price, Baylor University
- Conference App:**
Al Walser, UT Austin

Appointed Committees:

- Financial Review Committee**
Tracy Stegmair, Texas Woman’s University (Chair)
Jessica Smith, West Texas A&M University
Kate Proff, Texas State University
- Historian**
Sushil Pallemoni, Del Mar College
- Professional Development Committee**
G. Marc Turner, Texas State University (Chair)
Tess Barlow, Texas Tech University
Frances Frey, Our Lady of the Lake University
Jacqueline Goffney, Lone Star College
Laura Wichman, McLennan Community College
- Awards Committee**
Soon Merz, Austin Community College (Chair)
FC Caranikas, Austin Community College
George Gonzalez, San Jacinto College
Lisa Haynes, Texas Woman’s University
Kara Larkan-Skinner, Our Lady of the Lake University
Phillip Rhodes, McLennan Community College
Carol Tucker, University of Houston – Downtown
Vicki West, Texas Tech University

Elected Committee:

- Nominating Committee**
Soon Merz, Austin Community College (Chair)
Lea Campbell, University of Houston—Downtown
Rick Leyva, Richland College
Rebecca Richter, Temple College
Cindy Ullrich, Brazosport College



TAIR Membership Update

Welcome TAIR members, new and old; we look forward to working with you and appreciate your participation in our organization. The benefits of a TAIR membership include a subscription to TAIR-L; access to summer professional development workshops; and access to leaders in higher education and high quality vendors at the annual conference. Membership is maintained annually with the TAIR conference marking the start of the membership year. For 2017, TAIR has 313 members representing a range of institutions and agencies from across the state and nationally.

Membership has declined by just over 10% since 2014. With the addition of the TAIR professional development certificate and the upcoming conference in Corpus Christi, we hope to see more members in the coming year.

TAIR 2017 Membership by Institutional/Organizational Category

Category	Count of Members	Percent of Members
4 Year Public	125	40%
2 Year Public	127	41%
4 Year Private	45	14%
Association	10	3%
Technical	3	1%
Other	3	1%
Total	313	100%

Awards Update

Congratulations go to the following award winners from the 2017 TAIR conference in Clear Lake:

Best Presentation

After the conference, the Awards Committee selected “[Using R and QGIS for Geospatial Analysis](#)” as best presentation for the 2017 conference. This presentation was made by [Daniel Vollrath](#) from Trinity University. Congratulations to Daniel! He will receive a reserved place as the TAIR Best Presentation in the program at the 2018 Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Forum to be held in Orlando, FL.

Best Visual Display of Information

Lone Star College was recognized for having the [Best Visual Display of Information](#) during the closing General Session on Wednesday morning. Congratulations to Catherine [Hooper from Lone Star College](#) for developing an award winning visual display for their ‘fast facts’!



Awards Committee

The 2017 Awards Committee was chaired by Mary Barton, Immediate Past President 2016-2017. Members of the committee were David Brown, Mike Haynes, Faron Kincheloe, Kara Larkan-Skinner, Soon Merz, and Tracy Stegmair. Thanks go to the committee for their work before, during and after the conference to identify our award winners. The 2018 Awards Committee will be chaired by Soon Merz, Immediate Past President 2017-2018.

Call for TAIR Outstanding Service Award Nominations

The award is given to a member who has made a significant contribution to TAIR over an extended period of time.

A nominee must have been a TAIR member for at least five years and not a member of, nor a candidate for, the Executive Committee during the year nominated.

In addition, the nominee must meet at least three of the following four general criteria:

1. Has been a member of the TAIR Executive Committee, served on Program Committees, or presidential appointed committees;
2. Presented contributed sessions at TAIR conferences;
3. Organized, offered, or acted as a primary presenter in workshops or panels at the TAIR conferences;
4. Contributed in some other specific and significant ways that have advanced the purposes of TAIR.

This award is not given every year, but is a great honor when it is given. If there is someone who meets these criteria and should be recognized, please nominate the individual by sending the person’s name and any supporting information to: Soon Merz, Immediate Past President, smerz@austincc.edu

All nominations will close September 30, 2017.

For a list of previous honorees, please see the TAIR website at <http://texas-air.org/index.php/recognition/honorees/>

TAIR 2017 Conference Evaluation

The TAIR 2017 conference evaluation was conducted through a Qualtrics survey distributed via an email link and the conference app. Eighty-seven attendees responded to the survey. Most of the attendees who responded to the evaluation were from the 4-year university sector (54%), followed by the technical/community college sector (44%). Approximately 21% of respondents indicated that they had been working in IR for less than 2 years, followed by 39% of respondents who had worked in IR for ten years or more.

Overall, 89% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the 2017 TAIR conference; 92% were satisfied with the timing of the conference during the year; 88% were satisfied with the timing of the conference during the week; 93% of respondents were satisfied with the opening speaker Brandon Busted; and 86% were satisfied with the Guidebook App. In addition, 94% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with TAIR conference registration online, and 91% were satisfied or very satisfied with TAIR conference information on the TAIR website.

Areas where respondents expressed lower levels of satisfaction were related to the quality of the hotel rooms (57%), meeting facilities (64%); and quality of food and lunch menu options (72% and 70%, respectively). TAIR conference sites are selected several years in advance, so the feedback from TAIR 2017 will be considered for future site planning, and the growth of the organization will be closely monitored to ensure that future sites are adequate for our growing association.

Regarding the concurrent sessions, 79% of respondents felt that “the spectrum of topics was very broad,” 94% agreed that “the length of the sessions was sufficient,” and 96% agreed that the “session timing fit my schedule.” Fewer respondents “enjoyed the roundtable format” (66%), agreed that the hosts of community roundtables were knowledgeable (66%), and indicated that the “spectrum of [roundtable] topics was very broad” (73%). Regarding sponsors, 65% agreed that “Sponsor services/products were appropriate for my field” and 73% agreed that there “was plenty of time to visit the sponsors.” Given the importance of sponsors to our conference and to our profession, the Executive Committee plans to explore issues related to sponsors in greater depth this year to ensure we are meeting member needs.

Thank you to all of you who completed the survey. Your responses are appreciated and they will be used to inform future conference decisions.





Letter from the TAIR Professional Development Officer

Congratulations to everyone who attended the TAIR 2017 Pre & Post Conference Workshops, especially to those who recently fulfilled requirements for Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates of Completion! A total of 83 TAIR members (over 25% of the membership) attended at least one of the 13 different workshops offered at the conference with many people attending two or even three different workshops.

As the Professional Development Officer, I would also like to extend a huge “Thank You” to all of the members who volunteer their time to give back to the TAIR community by leading workshops at the conference and over the summer. As a volunteer organization, the content and quality of our professional development workshops depends on people like you. Without the contribution of your time and energy our professional development activities would not be what they are today!

TAIR Summer Workshops 2017

Speaking of workshops, registration for this summer’s TAIR Summer Workshops 2017 is now open at:

<https://regonline.com/tairsummer2017>

The summer workshops will be held on Friday, July 28th at the ACC Round Rock Campus. Lunch will be provided for all attendees (and presenters). This year’s workshop line-up includes:

- W1: Closing the Loop: Providing Feedback on Annual Assessment
- W2: Beginning SQL and Database Management
- W3: Making the Most of the THECB’s Interactive Accountability System
- W4: Non-Parametric Statistical Techniques
- W5: Google Charts for IR Websites
- W6: Qualtrics Surveys – Creating, distributing, and working with the results
- W7: Excel: Beyond the Basics
- W8: Hands On Tableau

For more information on the upcoming summer workshops, be sure to check out the official flyer on the TAIR website at: <http://texas-air.org/assets/pdf/TAIR-Summer-Workshops-2017-Official-Flyer.pdf>

Coming Soon

I am also excited to say that access to workshop completion records (TAIR 2015 to present) will soon be available on-line! This system will allow you to see what workshops you have completed as well as track your progress towards each of the Certificate of Completion levels. We are pilot testing the system this summer and hope to have it available to everyone this Fall. Be sure to keep an eye out on the listserv and your email for more information!

If you have any questions about the efforts towards professional development activities in TAIR, please feel free to contact me at gmturner@txstate.edu.

I hope to see several of you in Round Rock this summer!

Marc

Call for Nominations

The TAIR Nominating Committee is calling for nominations for the following elected positions:

TAIR Vice President/President-Elect – this is a three year term:

- 2018-2019 Vice President/Program Chair for the 2019 TAIR Conference at Horseshoe Bay Resort
- 2019-2020 TAIR President
- 2020-2021 TAIR Immediate Past President

TAIR Secretary 2018 – 2020

TAIR Professional Development Officer 2018 – 2020

TAIR Nominating Committee Member 2018 – 2019 (4 members will be elected)

Please take a few minutes to submit your recommendations to the TAIR Nominating Committee by clicking on the following link: <https://www.regonline.com/taircfn2018>



“Data’s a Beach”

The **Vice President/President Elect**, **Secretary**, and **Professional Development Officer** serve on the TAIR Executive Committee. These elected positions are involved in decision-making for upcoming conferences and are responsible for the smooth operations of the organization. There is work involved with each position, but these opportunities for service are very rewarding! One benefit is getting to know IR professionals from around the state as you help guide the future of TAIR.

The **Nominating Committee** members serve a one-year term and help to ensure that we have a full and qualified slate of candidates for the following year’s election.

More information about the responsibilities of TAIR officers is available in the TAIR Officer’s Guide, posted on the TAIR website at <http://texas-air.org/index.php/officers/>

Feel free to nominate yourself if you are interested in serving for one of these positions.

There are other opportunities during the year to get involved with TAIR, so please consider volunteering to serve on a committee or as a session coordinator!

All nominations will close September 30, 2017.

TAIR 2018 Call for Participation February 11th – February 14th

Dear Colleagues,

It's time again to reflect on the exciting things you have accomplished and to share your knowledge, growth, expertise, and tips and tricks with others in the field! On behalf of the TAIR Program Committee, I invite you to contribute to the advancement of our profession by submitting one or more proposals for the 2018 TAIR Conference, which will be held February 11th – 14th in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Participation is welcome from IR practitioners at all levels - newcomers and seasoned professionals, alike. Interested presenters are invited to submit proposals within one of the following tracks:

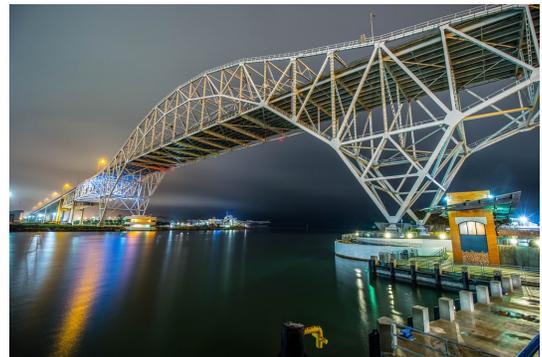
- Planning & Organizing
- Research
- Technology & Training
- Assessment & Effectiveness
- Reporting & Decision Support
- Current Issues in Higher Education

Learn about the submission process and explore session topic areas and formats by visiting the Call for Participation located at <http://texas-air.org/index.php/conferences/2018-tair-conference/participate/>. Multiple submissions are allowed and collaboration within and across institutions is encouraged.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is October 1, 2017.

We look forward to seeing you in Corpus Christi! If you have questions about the submission process, please feel free to contact me for more information.

Carmen Allen
University of Houston
(713) 743-0627
ceallen74@uh.edu



Corpus Christi Harbor
Bridge

TAIR-L Listserv Update

As a reminder, current TAIR members (2017) can post directly to the listserv at tair-l@baylor.edu. Those with lapsed memberships from the two prior years (2015 or 2016) will receive messages, but must renew their membership in order to post a message or participate in listserv discussions. To renew your membership, please visit <http://texas-air.org/index.php/member-resources/>

TAIR Financial Status

April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017



Letter from the Treasurer

The Association's finances are in good condition as of the completion of Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017).

TAIR began the year with \$100,479 in cash holdings; collected \$112,611 in revenues; expended \$141,075; and held \$72,015 in cash at the close of FY 2016.

The revenues from this year's conference, summer workshops, and operations slightly exceeded the events' associated expenses. The decrease in cash holdings is due to the inclusion of \$39,000 in net expenses from our prior year's conference in this fiscal year.

For a more detailed financial picture, the Association's 2016 Form 990-EZ filed in June may be viewed at <http://texas-air.org/index.php/member-resources/financial-reports/>.

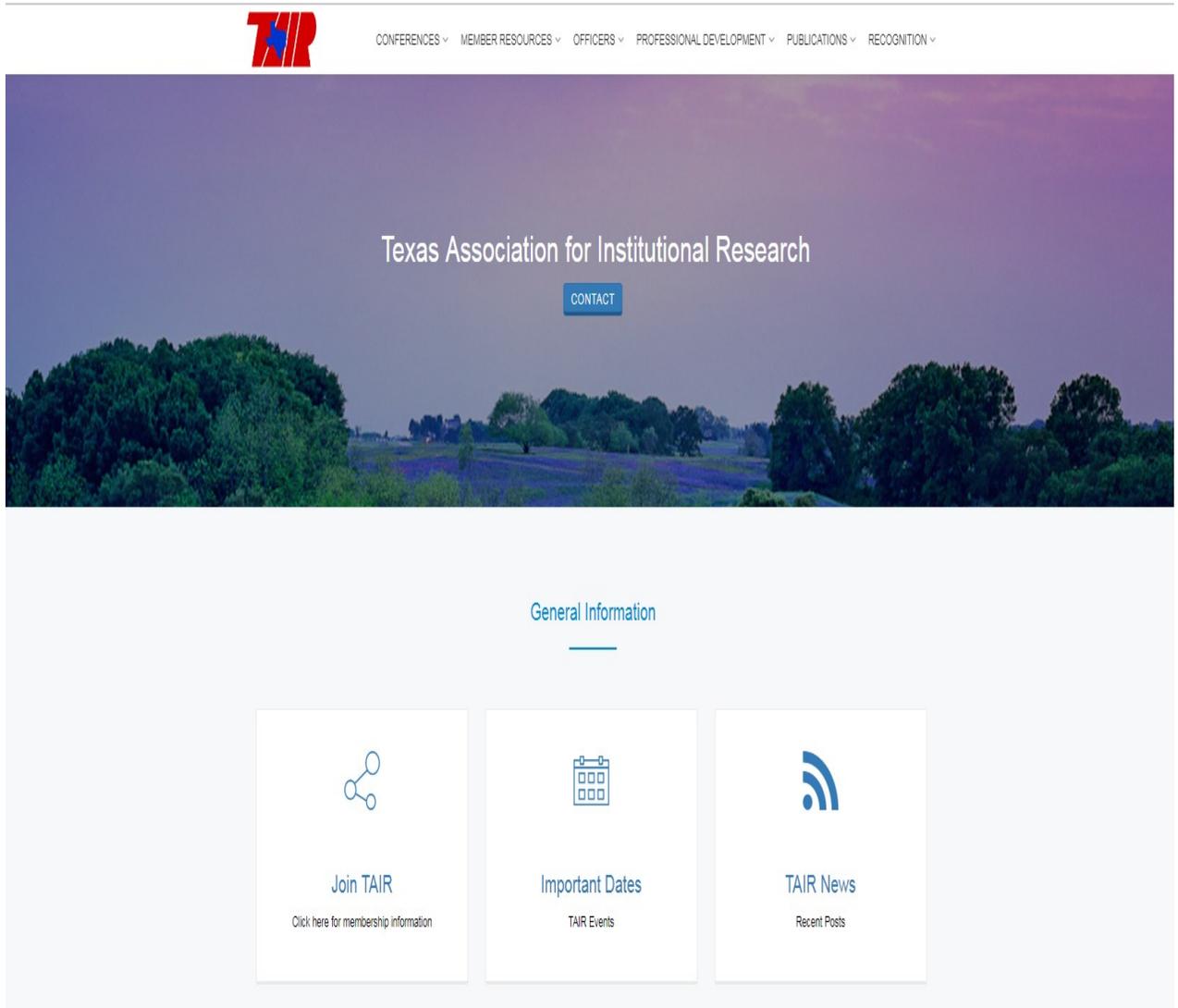
Please contact me at treasurer@Texas-AIR.org or (254) 501-5817 with questions and comments.

Paul



The USS Lexington Museum

TAIR Website Improvements



The migration of the website and domain name to the new host is complete! A huge thank you to Todd Moon and Kate Proff for their many hours spent on this project! If you have not already done so, please go out and take a look and tell us what you think!

Morgan