

to help with the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition presently held at SMU on Sunday.

TASO Representatives are voting members of the TASO Board of Directors and are expected to attend TASO Board Meetings and Conference.

TASO Representatives are expected to serve on a committee, chair a committee, or serve as an officer.

Member organizations may have several members serving on the TASO Board.

Time is provided to network and interact with board members from other TASO organizations.

## A Short Guide for the TASO Representative

Responsibilities of the TASO Representative:

- o Attend TASO Board meetings
- o Attend the annual TASO Conference
- o The TASO Representative has one vote representing her organization. If she/he is also serving as a TASO Committee Chairman or Officer, she/he still has only one vote.
- o Member organizations are encouraged to send a Representative to TASO Board Meetings and Conference in addition to any members that serve on the TASO Board.
- o With your board and member organization:
  - o Ask if there is any business that the TASO Board needs to address
  - o Share information about TASO
  - o Report important business conducted at TASO Board Meetings and Conference
- o Write an article about your organization and send it with photos to the TASO Newsletter Editor
- o Ensure your organization's information is correct in the TASO notebook and on the website
- o Visit the TASO website for updates: [www.tasovolunteers.com](http://www.tasovolunteers.com)



## *Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras*

### History

The origin of TASO was conceived in 1965 at the Women's Association for Symphony Orchestras (WASO) meeting in New Orleans. Texas delegations from Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio determined it would be beneficial to have such an organization at the state level. In March 1966, the following 11 member organizations were invited to attend a planning meeting in Dallas that included Abilene, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, San Antonio, Tyler, and Waco. The Conference of the Women's Committees of Texas Symphony Orchestras was held in Houston in March 1967. Amarillo and Beaumont were added to the list. At this meeting, Mrs. Henry S. Miller, Jr. of Dallas was elected the first President of the organization. She presided over the first "Annual Conference" of the Texas Women's Association for Symphony Orchestras (TWASO) in El Paso in 1968. In May 1984, the name of the organization was changed to the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras (TASO) and had 23 member organizations.

TASO was established to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas to develop, support, and promote the interest and growth of symphony orchestras.

TASO meets quarterly in June, September, January and April. January's meeting is held in conjunction with the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition. April's meeting is held in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

Member organizations are requested to send a representative to serve on the TASO Board of Directors and participate on committees. TASO asks that its representatives share TASO information with their membership.

Liaisons with Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA), also serve on the TASO Board of Directors. One TASO past-president has served as TCA president and another TASO past president was instrumental in developing Texans for the Arts.

In 1997, TASO initiated a statewide youth competition to select outstanding high school musicians. Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Miller, Jr. created a fund for it, and the competition was named in honor of TASO's founder, Mrs. Miller. The Juanita Miller Concerto Competition is held each January at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Teachers from music conservatories and universities outside of Texas judge the competitors in piano, strings, and winds/brass. All three first-prize winners, which includes the Grand Prize Winner, perform their winning concertos at the TASO Annual Conference.

The Annual Conferences are hosted by TASO member organizations each spring. Conferences offer the opportunity for members to hear nationally recognized speakers on topics valuable to their organization, share ideas, and participate in informative workshops.

# Welcome to TASO



## *Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras*

[www.tasovolunteers.com](http://www.tasovolunteers.com)

### Mission

The Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras provides for the exchange of ideas through leadership, networking, education, and advocacy for orchestras throughout Texas.

### Vision

Orchestras will flourish, prosper, and benefit with support from the Texas Association for Symphony Orchestras' volunteer organizations.

### Values

TASO. . .

- is a mission-driven organization
- aspires for excellence
- creates community within volunteer organizations
- supports the development of leadership
- uses open communication in all forms



# TASO Programs

## Advocacy

- Communicates with government officials and organizations such as the Texas Commission on the Arts and Texans for the Arts to increase awareness of the importance of Symphony Orchestras and the Arts
- Provides tools for TASO member organizations to advocate for the Arts

## Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is hosted by the member organization in the host's city. Member organizations volunteer to host the Conference on a rotating schedule. All member organizations should be represented at the Conference by their President, President-Elect, TASO Representative, or other delegate. The Annual Conference's purpose is to provide:

- Educational speakers to introduce innovative programs
- Opportunities for networking and social contact
- Opportunities to understand and participate in the mission of TASO
- The opportunity to attend the host city's symphony orchestra concert
- Recognition for those who work on behalf of symphony orchestras
- A forum for member organizations to share ideas
- A Conference notebook containing member organizations contact information, activities, and statistical data
- An opportunity to hear the Juanita Miller Concerto Competition winners perform
- **Project Competition/Recognized Projects**
  - o Member organizations may submit for competition an unlimited number of outstanding projects they completed during the previous year. The categories are:
    - Communication and Technology
    - Education
    - Fundraising
    - Leadership/Service
  - o PowerPoint presentations of the projects chosen as Recognized Projects are shown at Conference.
  - o To learn more about each Recognized Project, discussions are held after each PowerPoint presentation.
  - o Submission forms for Recognized Projects are available on the TASO website.

## • **Awards of Excellence**

- o Member organizations nominate candidates for outstanding support of their symphony orchestras.
- o Awards of Excellence are presented at the Annual Conference in four categories:
  - Business
  - Legislative
  - Patron
  - Volunteer

## District Representatives

Four District Representatives serve as liaisons to TASO member organizations. For accessibility, the TASO member organizations are divided into geographic regions of Texas. Within each region, District Representatives will:

- Contact the Presidents, President-Elects, and TASO Representatives of each league/guild before TASO Board Meetings and Conference
- Attend TASO Board Meetings and Conference
- Report any pertinent information to the member organizations
- If requested, visit the member organizations at the organization's expense
- Act as an advocate for TASO to symphony volunteer organizations which are not members of TASO
- Provide information to member organization's executive directors, conductors, and symphony board presidents

## Juanita Miller Concerto Competition

Each year in January, outstanding 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, residing in Texas, compete for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in piano, strings, and winds/brass by playing one movement of a concerto for out-of-state professional musician judges at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

- Financial awards are \$750, \$400, and \$200.
- All first-place winners perform their concerto at Conference.
- A Grand Prize Winner is selected from the three first-place winners and she/he will play in concert with one or more symphony orchestras.

## Membership

Membership application forms are available on the TASO website.

Membership classes for TASO are:

- **Active:** Any volunteer organization supporting a symphony or chamber orchestra is eligible for Active Voting Membership. Applications for Active Voting Membership must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- **Affiliate:** Any individual or organization wishing to support the mission of TASO, other than a volunteer organization supporting

a symphony or chamber orchestra, is eligible for Affiliate Membership. Affiliate Membership is non-voting.

- **Patron:** A Patron Membership is an Affiliate Member who wishes to support TASO with a contribution above the basic dues of Affiliate Membership.

## Newsletter

This digital publication is emailed three times a year to Member Organizations, TASO Board Members, and other interested parties.

- It provides a forum to spotlight the projects and accomplishments of leagues and guilds throughout Texas.
- The TASO Conference, Juanita Miller Concerto Competition, and legislative news are highlighted.
- The newsletter is posted on the TASO website.

## TASO Facebook Page

The TASO Facebook page serves as a platform for member organizations to promote their activities with other TASO organizations and the public.

## TASO Website

The TASO website, [www.tasovolunteers.com](http://www.tasovolunteers.com), provides a useful communication tool for TASO members by posting online:

- The TASO Newsletter
- All application forms for members (Membership, JMCC Entry, Awards of Excellence, Recognized Projects, etc.)
- Conference Information
- TASO History
- Conductor Interviews
- Blogs

## **Administrative Activities**

The Organizational Chart shows the administrative structure of TASO. It is very important that each member organization be represented.

- The TASO Board of Directors meets four times a year.
- Currently the June, September, and January meetings are held in Dallas at the Hyatt House Lincoln Park. The fourth meeting is held at the Annual Conference.
- In June and September, TASO committees meet on Sunday afternoon and the Board of Directors meets on Monday.
- In January, TASO committees meet on Friday and the Board of Directors meets on Saturday. This allows TASO Board Members