

2017 TABT Election

The 2017 election for TABT President-Elect (serves a 3-year term beginning with president elect in January 2018 and then president and past president in the next two succeeding years) and TABT Secretary/Treasurer (serves a 2-year year term beginning in 2018).

The candidates for president elect are Corena “Nikki” Fitzgerald and Claire Vollmar. The sole candidate for secretary/treasurer is Anne Gill, who has served since 2013. Candidates’ background, goals and photos are on the following three pages.

Once you’ve made your choices, send the name of your choice for president elect and secretary/treasurer to Robert Dennison at dennisonrz@gmail.com. Write-in candidates are acceptable, but must be members of TABT.

Your email must be received by Robert Dennison no later than noon, 16 June. If you have questions, you may ask Alton Biggs at altonb@ix.netcom.com.

Corena “Nikki” Fitzgerald

Biography

Nikki Fitzgerald lives on a family farm with her husband and two young daughters near Houston in Anahuac. She received her BS in Biology from Texas A&M University in 2007 and her MS in Education Administration from Lamar University in 2010. Additionally, she holds 8-12 composite science, agriculture science, instructional leadership development, PDAS and principal certifications. She has recently been accepted in TAMU-Commerce’s Graduate Biology Program.

Fitzgerald is science chair at Anahuac High School. Having taught for more than a decade, she has now taught every science course, except chemistry. She’s even taught some agriculture courses! Of course, her passion is still the biology classroom. Corena founded and leads Roots and Shoots, an organization that has led students to successfully plant over three miles of cordgrass in the Galveston Bay to prevent erosion in our community. Not always the traditionalist, on occasion she brings a full-size horse into her classroom to paint skeletons on the side of it.

Nikki is TABT’s new Webmaster for the site at <http://tabt.us>. She received the Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year for SETX and other awards, as well as more than \$80,000 in grants for her classroom and school. She can often be found on her family farm where she drives tractors and works cattle, playing the trumpet in her church, teaching a cycling class and being a good wife and mother to two young girls.

Goals Statement

One of my main goals is drawing in more first-year biology teachers to increase TABT membership. To do this we must find additional ways to provide them the support they need to be successful in the classroom. If we capture the new teachers who complete alternative certifications and graduation from universities, provide them the support they need, and integrate them into our organization with a volunteer mentorship program, I feel that will help increase membership for both TABT and NABT.

Additionally, I propose expanding opportunities for professional development and growth beyond our international trips and meeting at CAST. I want to make sure our members are aware of curriculum such as STEM-scopes, Hippocampus and other avenues that could benefit our professional development.



Corena “Nikki” Fitzgerald

Claire Vollmar

Biography

Mrs. Vollmar received her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Sam Houston State University and her Master of Science in biology from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. She has continued her education with courses from DNA Learning Center, GT certification from ST. Thomas University and additional educational experiences with other biology teachers and NABT.

After teaching math, IPC and biology for 37 years at the middle school, high school and University levels, Claire Vollmar has turned her expertise to helping educators throughout Texas. She is currently an independent educational consultant with school districts throughout Texas.

Recognized as the most influential teacher for summa cum laude graduates for 10 years, Claire was also named the 1996 Sigma Xi Outstanding Science Educator. Vollmar's biology classes were exciting as well as educationally stimulating, including multi-sensory activities, novel ideas and differentiated activities.

Vollmar has transferred her knowledge, passion, and pedagogy skills into helping educators increase their effectiveness in the classroom. Since her retirement from public schools, she has mentored beginning teachers, worked with alternative certification teachers and guided teachers in developing activities to accompany a new scope and sequence. She works schools throughout the year on effective teaching strategies and activities to stimulate the whole student along with providing content sessions for biology teachers.

She resides in San Antonio with her husband Ferd. She has 2 children, Erin, and Brent, and two granddaughters.

Goals Statement

Many of our newest teachers are overwhelmed with the vast amount of resources available and often do not have a mentor available for asking pedagogy or content questions. My main goal for TABT is to provide teachers with access to 'tried and true' activities compiled from our membership and to compile a list of outstanding biology teachers who are willing to mentor these teachers through online conversations or through face to face meetings

Secondly, I believe that TABT should increase its role in helping all biology teachers as they develop into passionate teachers whose love of the subject is infectious! TABT can do that by continuing to provide and strengthen its efforts to make teachers move from feelings of isolation to those of a connected community.



Claire Vollmar

Anne Gill

Biography

Anne Gill is currently the TABT Secretary/Treasurer, a role she has had since 2013. She teaches AP Biology and Human Anatomy & Physiology in the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District. In the past she has taught Chemistry Honors, Aquatics, Anatomy and Physiology throughout her 15 years as an educator. During her decade-long tenure there, the AP Biology program at her school has grown and averages 120 students each year.

Ms. Gill spent many summers taking classes to better prepare her to teach AP Biology, and now she spends her summers teaching course material to other teachers and students. She is currently an AP Biology consultant for the National Mathematics and Science Initiative. For the past four years, she has been an AP reader and will continue utilizing her skills as a reader in 2016.

Anne has received multiple awards including the 2006 Local Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, the 2013 Texas Outstanding Biology Teacher and was inducted into the Cypress Fairbanks Wall of Fame that same year.

Gill is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where she received her bachelor's in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. She is currently working on her master's degree in biology through the University of Illinois.

Goals Statement

My goal as secretary and treasurer for Texas Association of Biology Teachers is maintain the level of detail and concern for the group that has been there since the beginning. For the past four years, with help from the rest of the TABT Board of Directors, I have participated in discussions on a variety of issues. I have tried to be a voice of reason in maintaining our budget within our means.

At each meeting of the TABT Executive Committee and Association Business Meeting I have taken notes. Additionally, I have been accountable for all money received and disbursements made for TABT.

The Texas Association of Biology Teachers is one of the best and well run affiliates of STAT in the state and NABT in the nation, and I plan to help continue this. I promise to do everything I can that I believe to be in the best interest of TABT.



Anne Gill