



# Epiphany Ministries of Texas, Inc.

"Reflecting the love of Christ to youthful offenders."

## FROM THE CHAIR...

### Recruiting for Epiphany

*Most of our Epiphany teams have many members who have worked Epiphany for years. That gives each of our teams a very important core group. I believe it is essential that we also continuously recruit new people to join our ministry. New members bring new, or additional, skills as well as new enthusiasm. They bring new experiences for personal witness in the talks. Putting new team members at a table with experienced team provides an opportunity to fast track newcomer training and provide old hands with a fresh perspective. Continuous recruiting will help keep our ministry vibrant and keep us all a little sharper.*

*Grace and Peace*  
*Roy*



Photo courtesy of Kate Mellina

M  
A  
R  
T  
  
E  
2  
0  
1  
7

Volume XVII, Issue III  
Fall 2017  
[www.texasepiphany.com](http://www.texasepiphany.com)

### Inside this issue

Chairman's Message.....1  
Leadership Training.....2  
Board Reports.....3-4  
Upcoming Weekends.....4

### Important Dates

#### Facility Weekend Date

Brownwood	E 34	Feb. 18-20
Clemens	E 43	TBD
Mart	E 27	Mar. 2017
Post	E 21	Mar. 3-5
Giddings	E 30	Mar. 16-19
Krier	E 23	May 2017
State Board Meeting		Nov. 18



Please send your newsworthy events and photos to: [pjc903@gmail.com](mailto:pjc903@gmail.com)

# Leadership Training



Epiphany guidelines require that all Weekend Lay Directors complete Leadership Training. Dan Swanson, Epiphany Ministries of Texas Vice Chair, has been selected by the State Board to oversee this required training. In order to reach more people at each facility with this required training Dan is willing to come to you.

On July 15th, a training was held in Keller for upcoming McLennan County Lay Directors. The training was

informative for both the trainers and the trainees. We all came away with a clearer understanding of the weekend format, why we do what we do, the way we do it, and why it works. The information shared in Leadership Training covers team formation and planning the weekend.

Dan has asked for any Units that are needing training to contact him with several possible dates. Training normally takes 6 hours to complete. He has suggested that you encourage all unit volunteers to attend Leadership Training. Dan may be contacted by phone 806-215-2402 or email [jswan47@aol.com](mailto:jswan47@aol.com).



Photo courtesy of Kate Mellina

Mart Team Members hard at work building rolling storage cabinets for future Epiphany weekends.



Pictured right is a snapshot of the memorial to Pat Holden, that hangs on the wall at San Antonio's Cyndi Taylor Krier Juvenile Correctional Treatment Center.



*“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Romans 12:15*

With sadness we report that three of our board members have suffered the passing of beloved family members. Please accept our deepest condolences, and know that we continue to mourn with each of you:

- \* South Region Rep. from Evins, Kay Lynn Nichol whose husband Bill Nicol had a massive heart attack and “changed his permanent address” on June 23, 2017.
- \* State Board Spiritual Director, Frank Smith whose son Chris Smith lost his battle with cancer and received his ultimate healing on June 30, 2017.
- \* North Region Rep. from Mart, Kate Mollina whose father Colonel Benjamin G. Taylor, Jr. U.S. Army Retired, passed away after a “fulfilled life” on July 12, 2017.

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Kay Lynn, Frank and Kate we shall remember you in our prayers during this season in your lives.,

*Your Epiphany State Board Family*



# Board Representative Weekend Reports

## Giddings Board Report: Epiphany #29 March 2017 Board Rep: Lisa Seaton

It was a blessing to serve as Board Rep for Giddings Epiphany #29 and witness the effectiveness of such an experienced, cohesive team. I had the privilege of spending most of the weekend sitting next to my friend, Loretta Ehler, and will forever cherish those moments and the laughter we shared!

Two of the original Stars were unable to attend due to medical and disciplinary reasons, so this caused nearly an hour delay to the start of Day 1. Replacements were found and we began the weekend with 36 Stars and a full crew of Super Stars. The team was able to make up the time delay and we were off to a great start.

Julie, Jack and Jenny were an excellent leadership team and the weekend ran smoothly. Julie's organization was commendable and the team meetings were in line with the manual. The team worked well together and had servant attitudes which allowed the presence of the Holy Spirit to shine through. The talks were excellent and within the guidelines and many interesting Power-Points and visual aids were presented that helped keep the boys' attention.

Three things really stood out to me about this team and this weekend:

1. The participation of the team members during the music – Giddings has an incredibly talented music team that do an excellent job of choosing engaging songs. What was even more amazing to me was the level of team participation when a song had movements. EVERYONE participated and made efforts to get the boys involved. Whenever a "motions" song would start, the Super Stars and their leader would run up to the front and lead the room in the song. This was my fourth Epiphany team to witness, and I must say that this team has it "down!" I have never seen BOYS engage so quickly and begin participating in the music as I did in Giddings and I believe it was

efforts to lay aside their inhibitions and discomfort and get involved! Chris and I were in awe! Way to go, Giddings!!!

2. The way the Stars were greeted in the morning – ALD Jack Flannery did an outstanding job announcing the Boys' names. He had a microphone and creatively introduced each star like they were a famous boxer about to enter the ring. Once the boys caught on, they would pause at the doorway in a runner's stance preparing to make their "grand entrance." They ran in as CHAMPIONS and strutted or danced before an excited, cheering team. Witnessing how this kind of greeting truly set the beginning tone for each day and made the Stars feel special, I would highly recommend to the State Board that we consider allowing the position of "Greeter" to be assigned to someone gifted in this area and comfortable with the role, rather than the duty automatically being assigned to the ALD.

3. Spiritual Direction Availability – Alongside the prayer boxes, each table had a stack of "Spiritual Director Request Cards" that the boys could use to request time to speak one-on-one with a Spiritual Director of their choice. The cards gave the boys the option of needing to speak with a clergy "ASAP," "Today," or "Sometime This Weekend." The ASDs would turn the cards in to the SD, and he would facilitate the boys being able to meet with clergy of their choice in opportune and non-distracting moments. In my opinion, this allowed the boys to process things and choose when THEY were ready to talk about what they were experiencing. Clergy were not assigned as Star Guides, freeing up their time for one-on-one counseling. This did mean that most of the other team members were assigned 2 Stars, but this seemed to work well. I, myself, have occasionally had to

sionally had to have 2 Stars as a weekend guide and, in my opinion, having two stars is easier and seems to help the boys feel a little more comfortable.

The only opportunity for improvement that I would make is a common one – Leadership, please encourage veteran team members to keep an eye out for "Rookie" members and make sure they are prepared and comfortable with how to function as a Star Guide *throughout* the weekend. Even though we are given instructions during team meetings, sometimes it's hard to hear directions in the facility or to remember everything we were told previously. Help each other out so that no Star feels slighted or loses confidence in their Star Guide.

All in all, it was an amazing weekend that allowed God to show up and show off and His will be accomplished. Great job, Giddings Team! I hope I get the pleasure of serving with you again!

-Lisa Seaton



## Krier Board Report: Epiphany 22 Board Rep. Kate Mellina

I was very blessed to be the board Rep of this girls weekend.

They had 40 inside Team Members and 7 Outside Kitchen volunteers. There were 7 new team members, and had several new volunteers in and out of the weekend.

The church had scheduled something Thursday night so we had dinner at a Bill Millers BBQ and commissioning at the detention center where several team worked. This team is very flexible.

There were 18 girls in the unit, several had home passes and were not able to sign up. Fourteen girls had signed up, but only 10 came in Friday morning after they had checked in for school. By noon, on Friday we had 7 girls who were in attendance and they came back Saturday and Sunday. Carolyn had planned for three tables stuck with that. Three, two and two at the tables.

## Board Representative Weekend Reports: continued from page 3

At the cross ceremony 6 accepted their crosses. One young lady confessed she was so grateful to be part of the weekend end, but her family was Morman and she was already struggling with her faith in that "denomination" and was confused. Her table leaders really encouraged her, and expressed that she was still part of Epiphany and we loved her with Agape love.

After the community and girls left, the team cleaned up very quickly. Having the two storage buildings on the property has made set up and tear down very easy.

The leadership of this team is very organized, encourages new team and they are very blessed to have Sister Kathlyn there at the faculty.



**Post Board Report: Epiphany #20**  
**Board Rep. Mike Mellina**

We arrived in Post on Thursday evening and were able to attend the commissioning meal and service and meet the inside and outside team. There were a few talks that needed previewing and we were able to assist with that as well. The facilities lead on staff for the week

end attended our meeting and went over unit rules which served as training for the several 'first-timers' on the team and good refreshers for the many experienced team members.

Day one began as we enjoyed the first of our three wonderful breakfasts prepared by the 'best in the business' cook team. Entry into the facility was quick and smooth and we received the stars in short order. We were presented with seventeen stars and three superstars for the weekend. Day one went well and all talks were on point and consistent with the outlines. Skits and meditations were inspiring and I witnessed my first ever 'pg13' Prodigal Son skit. Please see Dan or Paula for further details. There were a few requests for spiritual direction and one affirmation of faith. The day was full and the team recovered well from time lost during shift change head-count which is a facility requirement that occurs three times throughout the day.

Day two began on time and without any major disruption. All seventeen stars returned but one star requested to return to his dorm in mid-morning. He said he didn't feel well but it was reported that the activities were not for him.

During prayer of commitment all 16 stars made either a commitment or re-commitment to Christ. Again all talks were on point and followed the outline. Upon returning to the church we had a brief team meeting followed by the cross ceremony.

Day three began on time with 16 stars and a festive celebration following the removal of forgiveness lists. All talks and meditations were again on point and impactful. Closing got off track for a moment when the presentation of the table family closing questions was momentarily overlooked. The activity was presented but after the fourth-day talk by Sharon Wright. Husband Mark Wright served as Lay Director and performed well for the most part. At times when the position seemed a bit much for Mark, deficiencies were quickly corrected by the experienced capable team from Post.

All sixteen stars accepted their crosses and the spirit-filled weekend was an overall success. Kristi Howard will serve a LD for Post 21 and should do an admirable job. It was a true blessing to serve as Board rep and spend three days with the wonderful team from Post. Kate and I made some great life-long friends.

Upcoming Epiphany Weekends							
Facility	Weekend	Date	LD	ALD	WC	SD	B. Rep
Brownwood	E 34	September 2-4	Trudy Smith		Anna Jackson	Mike Wiley	Lisa Seaton
Clemens	E 44		Latrina Koole				
Evins	E 6	January 20-22	Olga Lozano	Jamie	Juan Lozano	Bill Duke	
Gainesville	E 36	January 13-15	Neal Welch	Dave Casey		Buster Noah	
Giddings	E 30	October 13-15	Jack Flannery	Jenny Flannery	Anne Wilkerson	Steve Wilson	
Krier	E 23						
Mart	E 27	October 13-15	Randy Petcock	Kerri Kenney			
Post	E 21	October 13-15	Kristi Howard	Cindy Johnson	Lisa Seaton	Chris Seaton	Roy Bradshaw