

## TACRAO 2018 Newcomer's Committee Report

The Newcomers committee consisted of:

Irene Robinson, TACRAO Past President and Committee Chair  
Rex Oliver, Texas Tech University  
Michelle Walker, Texas A&M University

The Newcomers Committee first determined how many veteran members indicated on their conference registration that they wanted to be mentors. This returned only 21 mentors. Various emails were sent to the TACRAO listserv asking for mentor volunteers and after several attempts, we filled the spots needed for mentors. However, every mentor had two newcomers assigned.

The committee decides to utilize different colored bandanas to segregate the mentors and make it easier for the newcomer to find their mentors. The event took place at the Omni Hotel on Sunday, November 4 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Light snacks were served and one drink ticket was given to each attendee.

Newcomers indicated they would attend:	228
Newcomers actually attended:	133

Mentors # indicated they would attend:	114
Mentors # actually attended:	95

After the committee's discussion with various mentors, the committee recommends that a different venue for bringing together newcomers and assigned mentors be explored for future conferences. The 'social' event is very nice as a gathering, but does not accomplish much instruction on what TACRAO is, what the organization does, how newcomers can become involved, discussion about the various committees, etc., much less gives the atmosphere conducive to have a meaningful discussion with members. Many years ago, the conference had special sessions called Newcomer's 101 or TACRAO 101 that introduced new members to TACRAO and all of its many opportunities, but it feels that this had diminished in recent years.

The committee would like to recognize the extra assistance offered by volunteers from Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University for help during the Newcomer's Event. Additional thanks to the LAC-2018 Co-Chairs Joy Frazier and Araceli Hill for their assistance with set up

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Robinson,  
TACRAO Past President  
& Newcomer's Committee Chair