Background: Texas State Society of AMT was asked by our AMT Board of Directors to help manage AMT members with the Louisiana State Society and Mississippi State Society. These state societies have endured leadership difficulties and decreased member involvement in many recent years. Attempts to revitalize both state societies has been made for years with several challenges. Texas had the choice to help our fellow AMT members by merging the state societies. AMT staff sent surveys to all three state society members to see how they felt about a possible tri-state merge. The results revealed a positive response in favor of a tri-state merge. The Texas Board of Directors decided to proceed forward with a merger with concerns. Those concerns were shared with the AMT Central Councilor, Executive Councilor and Board of Directors.

Currently: After discussion, the AMT National Board approved the merger between Texas and Louisiana. Concerns of geographical distance and membership engagement from Texas leadership was noted. The Texas and AMT Boards strive for success and the distance would pose more barriers and complications. With both states bordering the Gulf of Mexico - the new merged Texas/Louisiana AMT membership would be renamed as “Gulf Coast State Society”.

Other avenues to help the Mississippi State Society are being discussed by AMT staff and Board of Directors.

Upcoming: New bylaws and standard operating procedures (SOP) for the Gulf Coast State Society will be written by a committee composed of members from both states. If you are interested, please let us know. Once complete, these documents will be sent to AMT for review and approval. A new logo will need to be created for the merged society. If you have designs or ideas, please share them! Once the bylaws and SOP are approved, we will begin to operate as one society. There will be representation from both states on the newly formed Gulf Coast State Society of AMT Board of Directors. Texas and Louisiana funds, membership and activities will be combined. The meetings will be rotated between both states. Due to Louisiana’s membership in the Magnolia Education Treasures (MET) conference group, the merged state society will be able to actively contribute to the continuing education and networking organization.

Note: There are 6 other successful merged states with 3 additional mergers in various stages. Member engagement and involvement are very important regardless of state lines. Texas leadership is looking forward to networking with our neighbors.

If you have any questions or looking to become more involved, please email TxSSAMT at txssamt@gmail.com.