



C-FB RSPA

Carrollton-Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association

December 2020



From the President's Pen

Della Swaim

HELP, PLEASE!

Hello All! Most parts of our lives have been disrupted by the COVID-19 virus. This is also true for the funding resources for our ABC Book Fund. Along with bags placed by Pat Enlow on our RSPA luncheon tables for your donations, a couple of raffles, and even a horse race, for the past few years we have successfully pursued grants and donations from the Civic League, Farmers Branch Woman's Club and The Credit Union of Texas. We owe these organizations a huge debt of gratitude for the help they have given us! However, these groups have also had to cancel or delay their own fundraising activities and divert what funds they have to helping those in our community who have been most affected by the pandemic.

So many students have experienced disruption in their learning, that I believe our ABC Book deliveries to the students of CFBISD are more vital than ever!

THEREFORE, I AM ASKING EACH OF YOU TO JOIN ME IN DONATING \$1 FOR EACH YEAR YOU WORKED IN EDUCATION TO OUR ABC BOOK FUND! This is our only C-FB RSPA project, and these are unusual times. Please send your checks to Judy Carey made out to C-FB RSPA and "ABC Book Fund" written in the memo line. **DO IT NOW, PLEASE!** Send those checks to **Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Dr. Coppell, TX 75019.** When I read this to my husband, Johnny, he said that I must give \$2 for each year because I retired with only 16 years! Please give what you can. The suggested amount above is only that, a suggestion. **Thank you!**

CHANGE+CHANGE+CHANGE+CHANGE+CHANGE

The good news is that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel as far as this pandemic is concerned. The bad news is that we must be cautious for a bit longer. Because of that, TRTA has extended its moratorium on meeting in person until at least March 31st. This means that our December and February meetings must be virtual on Zoom, and several of our planned field trips will be postponed again. There will probably be additional changes, but hopefully, that light at the end of this long tunnel that has been 2020 is NOT just a train coming! Please hang in there with us, and bring your smiling face to our December and February online meetings. C-FB RSPA loves you!

Wednesday, December 16

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

The Zoom link/code will be emailed 12/13

Program: **Holiday Entertainment with Jackie Payne**

10:30-10:55 a.m. Login to Zoom

11:00 a.m. Meeting begins

To be **FESTIVE**, let's wear **RED, GREEN, or WHITE**

December Program

Pat Enlow
 2nd Vice President (Programs),
 Children's Book Project, Publicity,
 Member TRTA District 10 Legislative Committee



ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS WITH C-FB RSPA FRIENDS AND ENTERTAINER, JACKIE PAYNE!

You know what? During this meeting, you can **wear your pajamas or your finest holiday outfit**. You can **sip hot chocolate or wine!** You can **lunch on a sandwich or fudge!** We don't care! We just want to see our friends!

Come join us and hear one of our favorite guests. **Jackie Payne** will bring her **keyboard and beautiful voice**. All you have to do is bring your smile, sit back, and enjoy! You can **sing along** as loudly as you wish! You can **get up and dance around** and **feel the joy of the holiday season!**

You can join the conversation beginning at 10:30 to reconnect with friends and have fun!

I sincerely hope you all are doing well and that you find joy in the holiday season. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy 2021. **Hugs!**





Children's Book Project:

A Book a Child

Pat Enlow, 2nd Vice President (Programs),
Children's Book Project, Publicity,
Member TRTA District 10 Legislative Committee



We are finally able to deliver the books we had hoped to deliver to schools last May!

If you can help with delivery, please email me at patenlow@verizon.net.

When: This Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at All-Storage, 2200 E. Belt Line Rd., Carrollton 75006 (between Josey and Webb Chapel near Goodwill)

There will be someone to receive books at each school. We will not enter the schools.

A **HUGE SHOUT OUT to GAIL SCHWAMB** for ordering, sorting, placing bookplates in books, and boxing by grade level.



I would also like to **THANK BETH SARGENT AND MARY EISENMANN** for their generous contributions to Children's Book Project.

Gail has been ordering books to be delivered in May, 2021. Our students need our help more than ever to maintain their reading skills during this unprecedented time. **Please consider contributing to A Book, a Child - Children's Book Project by writing a **check made payable to C-FB RSPA and sending it to our treasurer, Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell 75019. Please designate Book Project on the Memo line.****



Upcoming 2020-2021 Meetings

December 16, 2020 (online via Zoom)

Holiday Entertainment with Jackie Payne

February 17, 2021 (online via Zoom)

TBD

April 21, 2021

TBD

May 19, 2021

TRTA District 10 News and Installation of Officers
with Sandra Barber, President of TRTA District 10

Pre-Retirement Seminar Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021



Mary Eisenmann,
Retirement Education

The Pre-Retirement Education Seminar is Coming!!

Tell your working friends who plan to retire within 5 years!

Every year, C-FB RSPA hosts a Pre-Retirement Ed Seminar with Richardson for people planning to retire within the next 5 years. The meeting this year will be happening on **Saturday, February 20 at 9 a.m.** as planned. However, it will be **online via Zoom**, and there will be **limited registration**. It will be a 1.5 hour meeting—unfortunately no donuts and coffee this year, but people can come in their PJs!!

In the next week or two the school district will be sending out information and a link to register. **Early registration is important (we suggest by Jan. 20)** to be sure to get a spot! If you have any questions, please contact me at: mary.eisenmann@gmail.com



News from the Treasurer

Judy Carey, Treasurer

As you are reading this newsletter, please check to see if you have paid your state and local dues for 2020-2021. (We will start collecting dues for 2021-2022 beginning on March 1, 2021.) If you have not paid for 2020-2021, please put your check in the mail today. Make your check out to C-FB RSPA in the amount of \$45.00 (\$35.00 for state dues to TRTA and \$10.00 for local dues to C-FB RSPA). We really need your support by staying an active member in our organization, even though we are not meeting in person. If your state and local dues are not paid each year, you become an inactive member with TRTA.

Please mail your check to Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019. If you have any questions about whether or not you have paid dues, either email me at judy.carey@verizon.net or call 214-498-9867.

Sunshine

Kathy McWhorter



Please notify me if you know of a member who is ill or needs a note of encouragement!
kathymcwhorter@verizon.net



Metrocrest Services Toy Drive

Estelle Lara

Metrocrest Services is requesting help with gifts for teenagers. Veronica Mendoza, Program Director, informed me that they have rented a special storefront at Trinity Mills Rd. and Marsh Ln. for holiday shopping for the needy families they serve. The families are given tokens they then use to “buy” Christmas gifts for their family.

This is a chance for you to make a difference in the lives of families suffering real hardships in our own community. Here are some teenage gift donations they can use:



- Sports or college apparel
- Headphones
- Gym bags
- Footballs or basketballs
- Curling irons and hair straighteners
- Perfume and cologne sets, make-up
- Art and craft kits
- Blue tooth speakers (see Marshall’s, Target, TJ Max)
- Drones (some are under \$20 at Walmart and Target)

Bring your donations to the back of 13801 Hutton Dr., Farmers Branch 75234. Someone will come to your car to take your items.

And, remember, anytime of year Metrocrest Services can use cash donations. You can donate at their website: metrocrestservices.org/. Thank you!



Volunteer Hours

Kay Edmondson

This is a reminder to **count your Volunteer Hours** and email me with your count at mce60@verizon.net.

The State of Texas likes to know how many hours retired school personnel give back to the community.

Count obvious things such as volunteering as a school mentor as well as counting hours spent babysitting grandchildren and care-taking ill family members; even count the hours driving to and from such tasks.

Hours are counted from January 1 to December 31, 2020.

Keep track of your volunteer hours and report them monthly or in a lump sum at the end of the year. Thank you!

Healthy Living

Carol Sprawls



Our Walk Across Texas (WAT) TRTA Region 10 Healthy Living Challenge Program begins January 25, 2021, and lasts eight weeks. You received an email on December 2 with specific information and a link to sign up by **December 10**. This is an early deadline, however, there is much preparation to train Team Leaders, get participants assigned to teams, team names chosen, and everyone registered on the TAMU website. Please refer to the December 2nd email for the sign-up link.

Also please note on the sign-up form, if you want to be on the same team as ONE friend, both of you need to list each other. This is just a courtesy for those who desire it, certainly not an expectation. I will do my best to meet that request.

GET YOUR WALKING SHOES ON!



Texas Retired Teacher Foundation

Debbie Moss



TRTF (Texas Retired Teacher Foundation) is a multifaceted non-profit 501(c)(3) dedicated to helping active and retired educators with their financial needs.

Some of the projects include the Helping Hand Project, the Classroom Assistance Project, the Disaster Relief Fund, the Beginning Teacher Scholarship Fund, and the Online Tutoring Services that will match retired Texas public-school teachers with students, families, and districts that need tutoring services and support.

All of these programs need our continued financial support. Anyone who wishes to contribute to TRTF may contribute to a single project, or to the TRTF in general, and funds will be distributed as needed.

This holiday season might be a great time to consider a gift to TRTF! To donate, go to their website: trtf.org.

Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.



Take Care

Linda Bambina

Information & Protective Services

There are indeed SO many reasons to *Take Care* this time of year. I pulled just 4 of the best ideas from a list given to me by District 10. As the old “NYPD Blue” TV show used to say: *Let’s be careful out there!*

The Grinch Who Wants to Steal Your Christmas

1. Look-Alike Websites. Many consumers will see an increase in the number of email alerts announcing deals, gifts, and sales. While a email can look legitimate, the links may lead to **look-alike websites meant to trick you** into entering private information or give scammers an opportunity to download malware onto your computer. To protect themselves, consumers should: (1.) Review the sender’s email address; a true business will send from a domain such as @walmart.com; (2.) Look for misspellings throughout the email; (3.) Hover over links without clicking to see where they reroute; and (4.) Only enter sensitive information into a website whose address begins with “https”—the “s” informs you that it is secure and information entered is encrypted.



2. Free Gift Cards. Who doesn’t love free stuff, especially this time of the year. Scammers hope to take advantage of that fondness through phishing emails or pop-up ads offering gift cards. If you come across one of these offers: (1.) **DO NOT open the ad**; (2.) DO NOT share any personal information; (3.) DO NOT click the ad. Instead close out of the app or program you are using, then clear your history and turn on your ad blocker.

3. Fake-Shipping Notifications. Delivery notifications can often be expected through the holiday season as many consumers go online to purchase gifts, but some announcements may be phishing scams. **These false notification emails often use a legitimate business name and logo to trick you into thinking they are authentic, thus tempting you to click links within the email that potentially open you up to thieves gaining access to your personal information or passwords.** You should know: (1.) Most online vendors provide tracking information that can be used to verify where your items are and the delivery company. (2.) You are not required to pay money to receive your package; and (3.) Delivery

services do not need personal information to deliver your item.

4. Phony Charities. This time of the year consumers are in a giving spirit. Scammers are eager to take advantage of your generosity by posing as charities or needy individuals soliciting donations. Here are a few tips for spotting scammers: (1.) Beware of sound-alike names; (2.) **Verify your charity at Give.org**; (3.) Review the charity’s website to make sure they specify their plans for the donations and how they plan to use your donation to address the issues they claim to combat.



How to participate in a Zoom online meeting

Lyn Abercrombie, Tech Chair

Our December meeting will be via Zoom as an online meeting. If you have never participated in a Zoom meeting, please keep reading.



In order to participate in a Zoom meeting, you will need either (A.) a computer/laptop with a speaker (so you can hear) and microphone (needed only if you will want to ask a question), (B.) a tablet/iPad or “smart” cell phone (these always come with a camera and microphone built in), or (C.) a flip phone or a regular house phone.

If you are using Methods A or B above, when I email the link/code for the Zoom meeting (a few days before the meeting), you will want to click on the link ahead of time and it will prompt you to download the Zoom app. Then, your device will be ready for the actual meeting.

If you have done Zoom before, at the meeting time you will simply click on the link or input the code.

If you will be participating by Method C—using a simple telephone—you will simply call a number (which I will provide), listen to the prompts and input the info I’ll be giving you a few days before the meeting, then you will be able to hear everything that is said, you’ll be able to ask a question, but you will NOT be able to see anything.

Be aware that everyone at the Zoom meeting can hear if your dog barks or your TV is on in the background, or if a family member asks you a question. **Plan to Mute yourself** unless you have something to say (then, you would un-mute yourself). To mute/unmute with Method C (a simple telephone), use *6 (star six).



If you have questions, please call/text me, Lyn Abercrombie, at 214-603-3314 or email me at lyn2don@yahoo.com.

October 2020 Meeting via Zoom
with Tim Lee, Executive Director TRTA

26
Participants



Tim Lee, TRTA



Della Swaim, our President



Debbie Moss even has an app that lets her draw for raffle prizes!



November 2020 event hosted by Dr. Chapman, CFBISD Superintendent

43
Participants



More photos and other information at our website: cfbrspa.atwebpages.com

C-FB RSPA issues seven newsletters per year: Sept., Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., May, and Summer. Editor: Lyn Abercrombie