

DECEMBER 2021

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Please RSVP for lunch by Dec. 3rd to Judy Carey: judy.carey@verizon.net or call 214-498-9867

Dear C-FB RSPA Friends,

I hope you will be able to spend time with family and friends during the holidays.

I wish each of you a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving. We do have so much to be thankful for. I thank you for being a part of our association. As so many of you know, our local RSPA is a dynamic one with many of you so involved. Thank you for your service. We are always looking for more members to join a committee.

On November 11, Shaima Hakimi, Lori McCall, Mary Eisenmann, Becki Tucker, Della Swaim, Donna Wright and I represented our association at the C-FB ISD Giving House Donor reception. Many of you last August gave school supplies and checks for that cause. Our RSPA Board also authorized \$250 to this C-FB ISD fund which equips our students with the necessary supplies they need, whether it be clothing, shoes, backpacks filled with school supplies in order for them to learn. Thank you to all that participated.

Thank you to Dr. Chapman in honoring C-FB RSPA members and retired C-FB personnel with the luncheon and entertainment at the beautiful Multicultural Center on November 17th.

In our newsletter, you will hear from Lori McCall, 2nd Vice President, about giving to our Children's Book Project. Please be generous. We welcome new members as Shaima Hakimi, our 1st Vice President will introduce them to us. Pat Enlow, our Legislative Chair, always keeps us well informed on the legislative issues.

We hope to see you at our December 8th meeting at the Webb Chapel Church of Christ Church. Wear holiday attire. Please RSVP to Judy Carey by December 3rd for lunch. We will continue to video zoom our meetings.



Happy holidays.
Beth Sargent
President C-FB RSPA

Upcoming Meetings

Dec 8, 2021: Rusty Williams Author-Historian & Journalist

Feb 16, 2022: TBA



Welcome to our New Members!

Kimberley Guinn

Mitzi Thompson



Shaima Hakimi
1st VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming **Kimberley Guinn** and **Mitzi Thompson** to our local unit.

Looking forward to seeing you both in our upcoming December 8th meeting.

It is always enjoyable and pleasurable to see friends that have become members or who haven't come to a meeting in a while.

If you know someone that would like to come to any of our meetings, give them a call and invite them!

Remember that any friends you bring to our local unit meeting will receive a gift card **if** he or she decides to join and become a member during or by the end of our meeting. Please encourage your friends or family members and invite.

Directory

I will be sending an updated Directory after our December meeting.

If I have not taken your picture for our Directory or you would like an updated picture being taken, please come and see me in our meeting. If you cannot attend any of our meetings, please email me a headshot of yourself to: hakimishaima60@gmail.com.



Lori McCall

2nd Vice President's Report

Programs, Chair/Public Relations, Chair/Children's Book Project, Coordinator

Season's Greetings! With Thanksgiving just days away and Christmas around the corner, I hope everyone finds time to relax and enjoy the season.

Our December 8th meeting will be another opportunity to celebrate our being together for in-person gatherings. As before, we are extending our social time and streamlining our business segment.

For our guest speaker, we are privileged to have **local author and historian, Rusty Williams**, share documented stories and factoids about Dallas' early days. His latest book, *Deadly Dallas*, chronicles many of the dangerous and sometimes comical events early Dallasites faced on a daily basis. He will have copies of *Deadly Dallas* for purchase along with some of his other books. We look forward to seeing you.

Children's Book Project Funding Request

Our Children's Book Project Chair, Gretchen Biery, has been busy selecting the thousands of books to purchase this year. The schools selected to receive books are **Blair, Blanton, Farmers Branch, Riverchase, and Sheffield**. A primary source of funding comes from the contributions we donate in recognition of the number of years we have served in education.

Donating a dollar for each year served is suggested, if possible, but any amount is greatly appreciated. Donations can also be made in memoriam of a loved one. Thank you for your support.





C-FB RSPA Website
 Our C-FB RSPA website has helpful information and photos!
cfbrspa.atwebpages.com



Judy Carey
NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

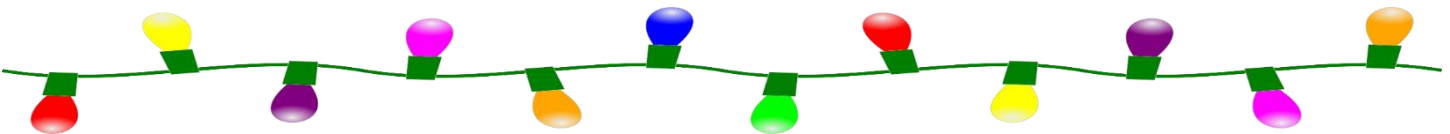
As you are reading this newsletter, please check to see if you have paid your state and local dues for 2021-2022.

We will start collecting dues for 2022-2023 beginning on March 1, 2022.
 If you have not paid for 2021-2022, 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). If you have any additional benefits like dental/vision insurance, you must be current with your dues to continue your coverage.

We really need your support by staying an active member in our organization. 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 or bring it to our meeting in December. If you have questions about your dues, email me at judy.carey@verizon.net or call or text me at 214-498-9867.



Lori Smith
Lunch Coordinator

We have a very special lunch planned for our December 8th meeting!
 We will be serving the delicious Marshall's sliced brisket, potato salad, green beans, relish tray, bread, BBQ sauce and our own homemade banana pudding!
 You don't want to miss this fabulous meal to share with friends this holiday season!
 Lunch bunch ladies, if you have your Santa or Elf apron, let's wear those!
 Please RSVP to Judy Carey by Friday, December 3rd
judy.carey@verizon.net
 or call or text Judy at 214-498-9867.

This is a reminder to **count your Volunteer Hours** and email me with your count at mce60@verizon.net.
Hours are counted from January 1 to December 31, 2021.
 Keep track of your volunteer hours and report them monthly or in a lump sum at the end of the year. Thank you!

Kay Edmondson
Community Volunteer Service



Pat Enlow
Field Trip Committee



Our field trip to [Holiday at the Arboretum](#) followed by lunch at the [Smoky Rose Restaurant](#) is on December 2nd. We have 25 people signed up and we are looking forward to good weather and a Christmas wonderland.

Two new exhibits are featured this year:

- a 50' tall [Dazzling Musical Christmas Tree](#) located in the performance area on the shore of White Rock Lake and
- 12 [Christmas Village Shops](#) inspired by Christkindlesmarkt in Nuremberg, Germany (Bakery, Candy Shop, Bookstore, Flower Shop, Clock Tower, Music Shop, Butcher, Doctor's Office, Hat Shop, Carpenter, Band Stand, and Cobbler).

The [Artistry of the Nativity](#) located in DeGolyer House and the [12 Days of Christmas Gazebos](#) will be on display also.

Be sure to attend RSPA meetings and read the Newsletter for information on [future fun field trips!](#)



Pat Enlow
C-FB RSPA Legislative Chair
Member TRTA District 10 Legislative Committee

TEXAS

In the 3rd Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature, voting district lines were re-drawn. These new districts will be in effect for the 2022 elections beginning with the March 1, 2022, Primary Election. Click here <https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2021/texas-redistricting-map/> and input your address to see whether your TX Senate, TX House, State Board of Education (SBOE), and US Congressional Districts have changed. (Mine have!) Although the 87th Legislature has approved these voting districts, there are several lawsuits pending and the district lines will be finalized after these lawsuits are settled.

ALL Texas Senate, Texas House, SBOE, and US Texas Congressional seats will be up for re-election in 2021 following the US Census in 2020 and the re-drawing of voting district lines.

Texas SB 13 from the 2nd Special Legislative Session establishes the [Texas Election Calendar for 2022:](#)

- November 29 – December 13, 2021 – Candidate Filing Period
- March 1, 2022 – Primary Election
- May 24, 2022 – Runoff Election
- November 8, 2022 – Election Day

FEDERAL

U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX) has introduced the [Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021](#) (HR 5834). This bill makes sure that teachers, firefighters, police officers will receive a Social Security benefit that reflects their actual work history, not reduced as it is now by the **Windfall Elimination Provision**. Congressman Brady has been a

tireless advocate for revision/elimination of WEP for many years (as has Tim Lee). He is retiring, so we are hopeful that HR 5834 will pass. Rep. Beth Van Duyne has signed on as a co-sponsor.

TRTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TEXAS 88th Legislature

Preserve Texas TRS Traditional Defined Benefit Retirement Plan – TRS has proven that when this plan is managed and funded appropriately, it provides cost-efficient retirement security for retirees and taxpayers. We know that 95% of public school employees are not included in Social Security which saves the taxpayer billions of dollars.

Fund TRS Pension Trust – SB 12 provides a multi-TX Legislative session fund-increasing initiative to ensure the long-term solvency of TRS. TRTA members will be urging the 88th Texas Legislature to complete the plan by funding contribution rates of 8.25% for state and active educators and 1.9% for ISDs by 2024.

Support a TRS Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) – TRTA urges the enactment of a COLA as an emergency item in the 88th Texas Legislature to help loss of income which retirees are experiencing. (The attempt in the 87th Legislature failed because it was never funded!)

Protect TRS-Care – TRTA urges the design and implementation of a long-term plan that provides continuing review of health care costs and associates state funding with the actual cost of health care, rather than the current arbitrary formula that was established 35 years ago.

FEDERAL

Eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision – Eliminate this 1980s arbitrary, unfair formula that only applies to “public servants”. HR 5834 eliminates WEP, and HB 82 eliminates WEP and GPO.

Stop the Government Pension Offset (GPO) – GPO unfairly penalizes ‘public servants’ only and hurts seniors after the loss of a spouse who was a Social Security recipient by not allowing collection of a deceased spouse’s benefits. GPO needs to be reformed immediately.



Carol Sprawls Healthy Living

Hello and welcome to December! Glaucoma and macular degeneration are eye diseases for many in the aging population, limiting their reading ability. The Texas State Library has The Talking Book Program available to Texans who cannot read standard text. The library offers FREE books, magazines, tapes, and a tape player to those referred by a medical professional or social worker. Please consider passing on this information to friends or relatives with limited eyesight. The website is www.tsl.texas.gov

In November, I sent an email explaining our annual Healthy Living Challenge, **WAT! 2022**, or **WALK ACROSS TEXAS**, sponsored by Texas AgriLife. In addition, the email included a link to the Google Sign-Up Spreadsheet. Over the past two years, participants in this challenge report developing a regular habit of physical exercise and many physical, emotional, and social health benefits. I hope you will consider joining us in this fun program with a bit of friendly competition. The challenge begins January 23, 2022; however, the sign-up deadline is December 10. Below is the sign-up link. Please refer to the previous email on 11-11-21 for detailed information and sign-up instructions.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1toKvmXo2dmlt25F6ff5WqJDlhmhZ7SGJB/edit?pli=1#gid=660823616>

Debbie Moss
TRTF Liaison

The Chocolate Delights Bake Sale was a huge success.
We sent a check to the Texas Retired Teacher Foundation for \$348.00!!!

I would like to thank all the people who donated their delicious baked goods for this worthy cause and all of you who supported us by buying multiple bags of goodies!

Our awesome bakers included:

Beth Sargent	Donna Wright
Carolyn Kollmeier	Mary Eisenmann
Lee Nitcholas	Kathy McWhorter
Della Swaim	Gay Dobecka
Carol Sprawls	Debbie Moss



Also, thank you to Della Swaim and Carol Sprawls for helping collect money during the sale and to Linda Bambina for her help in getting the project started.

Estelle Lara
Food Pantry at Metrocrest Services

Many thanks to all the retirees who attended our last meeting. The response was wonderful and more generous than before! That day we collected over 200 canned goods and boxes AND, we donated \$410.00 in checks and cash. Claire Brown at Metrocrest Services was very happy to help us unload the food and to accept the cash to supplement their needs. We will have another FOOD DRIVE in the Spring. Thank you!



Linda Bambina
Take Care:
Information & Protective Services

Words of Wisdom: **The World's Six Best Doctors** ...worth reading twice

Steve Jobs..... Died a billionaire at age 56. This is his final essay:

"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In some others' eyes, my life is the epitome of success. However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, my wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on my bed and recalling my life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in have paled and become meaningless in the face of my death.

You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone bear your sickness for you. Material things lost can be found or replaced. But there is one thing that can never be found when it's lost - Life.

Whichever stage in life you are in right now, with time, you will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends. Treat yourself well and cherish others. As we grow older, and hopefully wiser, we realize that a \$300 or a \$30 watch both tell the same time. You will realize that your true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether you fly first class or economy, if the plane goes down - you go down with it.

Therefore, I hope you realize, when you have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, who you chat with, laugh with, talk with, have sing songs with, talk about north-south-east-west or heaven and earth, that is true happiness! Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy. So, when they grow up, they will know the value of things and not the price. Eat your food as your medicine, otherwise you have to eat medicine as your food.

The One who loves you will never leave you for another because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find a reason to hold on. There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!

The six best doctors in the world are sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confidence and friends. Maintain them in all stages and enjoy a healthy life."