

C-FB RSPA

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Beth Sargent

Our coming together for the in-person meeting is what we have longed for. And, it will be here on Wednesday, September 15, at the Webb Chapel Church of Christ.

Dear C-FB RSPA Friends,

Contained in this article:

- In-Person meeting, September 15, 10:30
- Recorded Zoom meeting
- Lunch increase to \$12
- School supply drive-by for CFBISD
- Giving House donation, \$250
- New business card
- FaceBook picture

We want to celebrate our coming together. Our Social will extend from 10:30-11:15. We have so much to share. National Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15. Festive dress is welcomed. The church protocols require unvaccinated members to wear masks. Masks are encouraged, but it is your preference. Therefore we need everyone to RSVP even if you're not eating.

We will have social distancing with tables and hand sanitizers. We hope you can join us in person. Since several members are living out of town and out of state and other members are not comfortable being in crowds, we will have a short business discussion from 11:15-11:40, lunch, and then a message with Dr. Chapman, Superintendent of C-FB.

Since the Zoom account is TRTA District X be patient with us as we get the kinks out.

With the price of food increasing, our RSPA Board has made a difficult decision to raise the price of lunch from \$10-\$12. You do not need to purchase a meal to attend. Brown bag or come for the program at 12:10. Unfortunately, if you reply yes but can not make it and do not let Judy Carey know by Tuesday, Sept. 7, we will need to charge you for the meal.

Shaima Hakimi, Lori McCall, Estelle Lara, Ada Jorden and I collected your donations for our C-FB economically disadvantaged students. Our Historian, Donna Wright, was on hand taking pictures. Pam Pena, C-FB coordinator of Public Relations, informed us that our local unit donated over \$800 plus an abundance of school supplies.

A big thank you to all of you who contributed.

C-FB ISD has launched a new initiative called The Giving House. C-FB staff can request "items for students to have their basic needs met". Our RSPA Board voted to donate \$250 this 2021-2022 school year.

We have a new business card. Thank you, Shaima! It has the QR Reader which will open to our website with all information you will want to know. If you are not able to attend our meetings, let me know and I will send you one or more cards.

If you do not want your picture on our website, Directory and/or Facebook, let me know.

Your Board has worked hard all these months. We want our Local Unit to be the BEST. We want to hear your ideas and to come join us in one of our committees.



RSVP for the luncheon/meeting by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7

to Judy Carey

judy.carey@verizon.net or text 214-498-9867

(Please leave your full name when you RSVP. Thanks!)

NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN AFTER SEPTEMBER 7

Upcoming Meetings

October 20, 2021

December 15, 2021

February 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022



Take Care

Linda Bambina

Information & Protective Services

Accidental 9-1-1 Calls in 2020:

NTECC processed 6,648 abandoned calls (or 9-1-1 hang-ups) which, on average, take over 3 minutes each to resolve. That's almost 356 hours. **If you accidentally call 9-1-1, don't hang up.** Tell the dispatcher it was a misdial and that you do not have an emergency. *If you hang up, the dispatcher will try to call back and may dispatch an officer* if it cannot be determined that an emergency exists; thereby, depleting emergency resources unnecessarily. Remember, stay on the line so dispatchers can quickly be ready for the next call, which may be a life-or-death situation.

C-FB RSPA Website

Our C-FB RSPA website has helpful information and photos!

cfbrspa.atwebpages.com



Legislative News

Pat Enlow

C-FB RSPA Legislative Chair

Member TRTA District 10 Legislative Committee

What exciting and interesting Texas Special Legislative Sessions we have had! As most of you know, enough Texas Democrat Representatives broke quorum, by leaving Texas, that the House was prevented from conducting business during the first Special Session. Enough returned during the Second Special Session allowing the House to move forward. This article was due August 25, so I cannot tell you the outcome of the Second Special Session, but I have provided links below so that you can view the status of bills pertinent to Texas retired school personnel.

I am also including a review of legislation passed in the 87th Legislative General Session.

Update: SB 7 passed the House on August 27th!! (editor's note)

In other news:

U.S. Representative Beth Van Duyne (TX-24) has not signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2337 – Windfall Elimination Provision reform which TRTA has worked for several years to bring about. Please call her office at **202.225.6605**, and ask that she support Texas retired school personnel by signing as a co-sponsor for HR 2337. WEP unfairly reduces earned Social Security payments for public school personnel as well as police and firemen.

TX Representative Michelle Beckley (HD 65) and Derrik Gay (Carrollton tax attorney) have filed to run against U.S. Representative Beth Van Duyne in 2022.

TX Senator Jane Nelson (SD 12) has announced her retirement.

TX Representative Tan Parker (HD 63) has filed to run for SD 12.

Texas Legislature Online

Bill Alert

87(2) HB 5

Relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction regarding appropriations of \$701 million in General Revenue.

8/24/2021 H Reported favorably as substituted

[View all actions](#)

87(2) SB 7

Relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas equal to the lesser of a retiree's current monthly annuity or \$2400.

8/24/2021 H Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)

[View all actions](#)

87th Legislative Session Review

Senate Bill 1 – The Finance Bill

- SB 12 passed in 2019 to increase contributions to TRS until they reach 8.5% in 2025. SB 1 is a commitment to increase funding in the 2023 session to keep the fund sound.

House Bill 1585 – The Sunset Bill

- Created a position at TRS to be more responsive to members needs and to assist them with agency issues.

- Requires TRS to publicly report financial bonuses made to its investment managers.
- Increases customer service in health care appeals.
- Changes the exemption date for full-time work restrictions and penalties to allow any current retiree who retired prior to January 1, 2021 to return to work full time with no penalties or restrictions.

HB 2022- Golden Ticket Bill

- The golden ticket bill will allow Medicare age-eligible retirees who left TRS-Care between 2017 and 2019 a one-time opportunity to rejoin. If Governor Abbott does not veto the bill, it becomes law on September 1, 2023. Please speak with a TRS counselor before making any decisions related to health care insurance.

SB 288 – Return-to-Work Bill

- Retirees who returned to work in the classroom faced losing an entire monthly pension check as a penalty for working over their allotted time period by even a small amount, defined as half-time by TRS.
- SB 288 reforms the penalty structure to require warnings before any financial penalties are incurred.
- TRS members who retired before January 1, 2021, are exempt from all work limits.

HB 3207 – Return-to-Work Disaster Bill

- HB 3207 provides a path for retirees to return to work with no penalties or surcharges during times of a declared disaster, such as during and after the February 2021 winter storm.

SB 1356 – The Tutoring Bill

- SB 1356 allows organizations, such as the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation and TRTA, to offer tutoring services to school districts. A retired educator working as a tutor who is paid with federal funds will not have any TRS-related return-to-work issues, nor will the school district surcharge apply to their service.

SB 202 – TRS Contributions

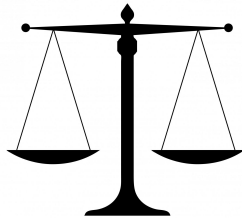
- SB 202 changes the current practice allowing TRS surcharges to be shared by the employer (the school district) and the employee (the TRS retiree). The employer (the school district) is now responsible for all surcharges for the pension fund and TRS-Care for employees who have returned to work more than half-time.

SCR 17 – WEP Reform

- SCR 17 is a request from the Texas Legislature to the federal government to repeal and reform the harmful Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

COLA: Texas Senate Passes 13th Check Bill

- SB 7, by Sen. Joan Huffman (R – Houston), passed unanimously through the Texas Senate and would provide a supplemental payment to retired educators equal to the lesser of a retiree's current monthly annuity or \$2400. It is in the House (Special Session 2)



C-FB RSPA Website

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cfbrspa.atwebpages.com

2nd Vice President's Report

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



Greetings, Everyone! Looking forward to seeing you in two weeks as we celebrate the return of in-person meetings. Our guest speaker will be **C-FB Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John E. Chapman III**, who will kick off our new year with a "Welcome Back" message and district updates.

Since **National Hispanic Heritage Month** officially begins on September 15th, we decided to add a South-of-the Border element into our Family Reunion theme. We hope you enjoy catching up with old friends and mingling with new members while savoring the delicious dishes our Lunch Bunch ladies have arranged. Please feel free to wear festive attire!

Help Wanted! For those educators who may want to earn some extra money, our schools need your help. The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation's (TRTF) Tutor Program is reaching out to school districts and providing them with names and contact information of certified teachers who are available to tutor. It will be up to each school district on how to implement this program, i.e., in-person, online, individual, small group or all the above.

Please check out this [flyer](#) for more information on how to register. This opportunity is not just for TRTA members, so spread the word to your family and friends.

There is no limit to the number of tutoring hours a retiree may work per month. All retirees who retired before January 1, 2021, are exempt from all penalties to their annuity if they return to work.

The Children's Book Project is now chaired by Gretchen Biery. Gretchen retired from Riverchase Elementary in 2019 after serving ten years as their librarian. She's the perfect fit for this role, and we are very fortunate she has agreed to take on this project.

We want to recognize all the hard work and years of dedication that Pat Enlow and Gail Schwamb have given to the Children's Book Project. Each year, they managed to increase the number of books delivered into the hands of our underprivileged children. In addition, they have left us with a surplus in funds and inventory. Thank you, ladies!



C-FB RSPA Website

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Welcome to our New Members!

Alida Guillen	Bridget Basel	Carolyn McKeefer
Charles Marley	David Hardy	Janice Hardy
Gay Dubecka	Glenda Blankenship	Janet Vellutato
Jim Moen	Linda Moen	Lloyd Carr
Madeline Myers	Mark Schallhorn	Mary Johnson
Monica Johns	Pat Revall	Sterling Price
Tyson Garrison		

Membership

Shaima Hakimi, 1st VP, Membership

Hope everyone had a great summer, and I am so looking forward to a pleasant fall season.

I am the newly elected 1st VP and membership chair.

Our membership drive for 2021-2022 is in full swing, and we are working hard to add more members to our local unit.

In May, we obtained the list of new retirees from C-FB ISD and reached out and invited them to join us while we had their work email address. We also delivered goodie bags to their campuses along with a membership form.

Thank you, Lori McCall and Lori Smith, for your help.

This year, local units are provided additional Membership Incentives.

A. Reach for The Stars:

Our membership year has been divided into 4 quarters:

1st Quarter: March, April, May

2nd Quarter: June, July, August

3rd Quarter: September, October, November

4th Quarter: December, January, February



A unit with the highest increase with membership will be awarded \$50.

B. Grow Your Own

A unit member will receive a non-monetary monthly incentive for recruiting the largest number of new/renewing members. Members will at least need to recruit 2 to qualify.

A strong growth in our membership will give TRTA a much greater voice and leverage to tackle issues related to our pension. TRTA is the one and only organization fighting for our causes. So please reach out to any friends that have retired recently to join us, and invite them to one of our meetings.





OLE! FIESTA! LET'S CELEBRATE!



Lori Smith

Lunch Bunch is ready to get back to serving you delicious lunches at our RSPA meetings! We are going to celebrate with a Fiesta lunch in September catered by Los Lupes. We will be having cheese and chili enchiladas and sour cream chicken enchiladas, rice, beans, chips, salsa and queso .

All food will be served by the caterers so less hands will be touching things.

We also feel it is necessary at this time to raise our price to \$12 for our lunches. We are sorry to have to do this but the cost of food has definitely increased. Thank you for understanding!

Also, because we are having it catered **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE GET AN ACTUAL COUNT 7 DAYS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15. PLEASE RSVP TO JUDY CAREY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (BEFORE SEPT. 7th)!**

We can't wait to get back to seeing everyone and having some fun again! Remember you are welcome to come to our meetings even if you are not eating lunch or you want to bring your own food. We just want to see you!

Donna Wright

Historian

Since we are now meeting in person again, if you do **NOT** want to be in any of the pictures taken for the meeting, please write to Beth or me.

Thank you,,

dswright13@verizon.net

bsarg1923@tx.rr.com



Sunshine

Kathy McWhorter

Please notify me if you know of a member who is ill or needs a note of encouragement!

kathymcwhorter@verizon.net



Carol Sprawls

September is **National Cholesterol Education Month**. It's a great time to learn ways to keep our blood cholesterol levels within normal ranges. Please check with your doctor for your current levels and take steps to lower your cholesterol levels when necessary.

Living a healthy lifestyle can help keep our cholesterol in a healthy range and lower our risk of heart disease and stroke. But, unfortunately, everyone's risk for high cholesterol goes up with age. As we age, our bodies don't clear cholesterol from the blood as well as they did when we were younger, leading to higher cholesterol levels which affect our **heart health**.

Our body makes all of the cholesterol it needs, so we do not need to obtain cholesterol through foods. However, eating large amounts of foods high in saturated and trans-fat may contribute to high cholesterol. Below are ways to **practice** good heart health:

- Limit foods high in saturated fat, such as cheese, fatty meats, and dairy desserts.
- Choose foods low in saturated fat, trans fat, sodium (salt), and added sugars; examples include lean meats; seafood; fat-free or low-fat milk, low-fat cheese and yogurt; whole grains; and fruits and vegetables.
- Eat foods naturally high in fiber, such as oatmeal and beans (black, pinto, kidney, lima), and unsaturated fats, which can be found in avocado, vegetable oils like olive oil, and nuts.
- Get 3 hours of moderate-intensity exercise every week, such as brisk walking or bicycling.

As you embrace our tagline, "Healthy Living is a Lifestyle," remember that each day is a fresh start! Stay focused, develop a positive attitude, and remain passionate with your goals

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 of ill family members; even count the hours driving to and from such tasks.

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!



News from the Treasurer

Judy Carey, Treasurer



Finally, we get to meet in person. I am so excited to be able to see everyone.

Reminder..... If you have not paid your TRTA state dues (\$35) and your C-FB RSPA local dues (\$10), now is the time to do that!! The dues you pay now are for 2021-2022. Please bring your check to the meeting or send your check (made out to C-FB RSPA) to me at 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019. You may include the cost of lunch (**Lunch is now \$12.00**) in the check with your dues. It is very helpful if you make out your check before you come to the meeting; it speeds up the check in time. If you have questions about your dues, please call me at 214-498-9867 or email me at judy.carey@verizon.net. We need your support to help pay for programs, door prizes, recruit new members, etc. We do put your \$10.00 to good use.

Thanks to all of you that have paid your dues. I have had a few members get in touch with me saying they have received texts and emails telling them that their benefits have lapsed due to not paying their dues. If you have any extra benefits through TRTA you should consider paying your dues now.

If you have any changes in your information, please let me know. I can change your information with TRTA, **but you need to change your information with TRS yourself.** TRTA does not share the changes that I send in with TRS. Have you retired recently, let me know so I can change your membership status from associate member to member?

If you are interested in viewing the Treasurer's Report, it is posted on our C-FB RSPA webpage at <http://cfbrspa.atwebpages.com> Also our proposed budget for 2021-2022 is posted there. Please look at this proposed budget. We will be voting on it at our September meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting. Your name tag will be waiting for you.

Metrocrest Services

Estelle Lara

As in the past, the C-FB RSPA plans to have two big food/money drives to help Metrocrest Services in Farmers Branch. The next main drive will be in November, and those items most needed will be updated at that time. Currently, these are the items on their emergency list:

- Toilet paper
- Canned soups (no cream soups, please)
- Dry cereals, especially kid cereals
- Canned fruit
- Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese, other pasta mixes
- Rice, beans
- Paper towels
- Feminine hygiene, especially pads
- Baby diapers

This year Claire Brown, the food pantry manager, welcomes food donations at any time you wish to bring items. The address is 13801 Hutton Drive, Farmers Branch, TX. 75234. Any questions can be emailed to pantrymanager@metrocrestservices.org. The telephone number is [972-446-2100](tel:972-446-2100). Donations are always appreciated.

Big Plans for our October Meeting!



We are having a Chocolate Delights - “Old Time Bake Sale” to raise money for the Texas Retirement Teachers Foundation initiative - “A HELPING HAND”.

We need bakers!!! Anyone willing to bake an item for this worthy project – please contact Debbie Moss. We would like homemade items like pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, fudge or your specialty.

We will have a limited number of whole pies or cakes and the rest will be small bags of Delights so that everyone can go home with a tasty morsel – or a lot of tasty morsels!!!

To volunteer to bake, please email Debbie Moss (debbiemoss67@gmail.com) with the following information:

Your name

Phone number

What you would like to bake for us

Would you be willing to provide the recipe?

Kathy McWhorter Surprise Birthday



CFB RSPA Field Trips 2021-2022

July 8	Ham Peach Orchard, Terrell
October 27	Globe Life Field, Arlington
Nov./Dec.	Dallas Arboretum, Dallas
January 25	Chili Cook-off & Game Day, Farmers Branch
February 23	Dallas Holocaust Museum, Dallas
April 27	AT&T Performing Arts Center/Wylie Theater, Dallas
May/June	Top O'Hill Terrace, Arlington
Summer Bonus	Firehouse Theatre with Linda Bambina

Field Trips 2021-2022

Lee Nitcholas

The Field Trip Committee has made plans for exciting and fun field trips beginning with the long planned tour of Globe Life Field. We will be updating our sign up sheet at the September meeting. Many have already paid and are ready to go; however, if you are not on the original sign up list, we can add you now.

Don't miss this trip and lunch at Texas Live on Wednesday, October 27th. We will go behind the scenes with our tour of Globe Life Field and explore locations like premium venues, unique club spaces, luxury suites and more. Discover rich history, impressive architecture and fun photo opportunities around every corner. The tour will last approximately sixty minutes, then we will walk next door to Texas Live for a delicious lunch.

Ham's Peach Orchard Field Trip

