

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION



Beth Sargent
President C-FB RSPA



Spring is here! What a beautiful and hopeful season! The beauty of our Texas Bluebonnets along our highways will be in full bloom for us to enjoy.

We have missed being together. We will meet in person at the Webb Chapel Church of Christ on April 20 at 10:30 with our meeting beginning at 11:00. Lunch will be served. For our safety, the tables will be further apart with 6 chairs at a table. If you are not able to join us, we will provide a Zoom video recording after the meeting.

We will welcome Sandra Barber, TRTA District X President, who will speak briefly to us.

The TRTA Convention at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas is next week. Many thanks to our members, Shaima Hakimi, Lori McCall, Della Swaim, Darcy Perreault, Judy Carey, Pat Enlow, Linda Bambina, Mary Eisenmann, and Lee Nitcholas in representing C-FB RSPA and for volunteering. The TRTA Bylaws will be adopted by the House of Delegates. Our local unit will be revising our Bylaws giving us more flexibility with our local decisions.

To better serve our almost 400 members in C-FB RSPA, we will be sending out a survey in May. We want to know your ideas for programs, field trips and your thoughts on how we can be a more vibrant local unit. Please consider joining our team.

Our TRTA District X is celebrating its 40th Anniversary on Monday, April 25th, at the Spring Leadership Development Conference. You received an email from me on April 2 inviting you. The morning will be a fun event and will give awards (C-FB RSPA will be receiving one for membership) and will have installation of new officers. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The **DEADLINE** for letting me know if you will be joining us for the Conference at the Region X Education Center is Sunday, April 10th. Please email me at: bsarg1923@tx.rr.com or call 214-789-9612.

This is **NOT** to be confused with confirming your attendance and lunch choices for our C-FB RSPA meeting April 20th that deadline is Friday, April 15th.

C-FB RSPA Website

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



Shaima Hakimi
1st VP Membership

Please join me in welcoming Janice Caperton, Rachelle Casey, Sarah Eaton, and Patti Sloey to our local unit.

We're looking forward to seeing you in one of our upcoming meetings. If you know someone who would like to be a guest at any of our meetings, give them a call and invite them! Remember, any friends you bring to our local unit meeting will receive a gift card if they join while at the meeting. We have New Membership Incentives this year!

Please see Judy Carey's article for details.

The earlier you pay your dues, the more chances you will have to win. If you need further information, please feel free to reply to this email or call me at **214-733-9152**

**As of March 1, 2022, no NEW monthly bank drafts will be accepted.
More details to come.**

Directory

Our updated Directory will soon go out to all members. If I have not taken your picture for our Directory or you would like an updated picture, please come and see me in one of our meetings or you can email me a headshot/photo of yourself to: hakimishaima60@gmail.com.



Lori McCall
2nd Vice President's Report
Programs, Chair/Public Relations, Chair/Children's Book Project, Coordinator

Happy Springtime, Everyone! I hope you've been able to enjoy some pleasant weather days in between the tornado scares and rainy cold snaps.

This month we welcome TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee to our April 20 in-person meeting. I've asked Mr. Lee to give us updates on the status of WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision), GPO (Government Pension Offset), and our benefits provider, AMBA. I also mentioned that we would like a preview of actions being planned for the issues we want the 88th Texas Legislature to address in January. If you can't make it to our meeting, we will send an email (later that week) with the Zoom video attachment.

Children's Book Project

I want to thank Gretchen Biery, our CBP Chairwoman, for doing an outstanding job this year. After shopping various vendors and negotiating the best prices, she has purchased, sorted, labeled, and boxed all the books, and now they are ready for delivery! You will be receiving an email in the next few weeks about delivery dates and times.

I also want to recognize Della Swaim and her behind-the-scenes efforts in procuring funding for our CBP. She has written grants and met with local non-profits to promote our cause and need for assistance. More to come on this in next month's newsletter!

Volunteer Opportunities for Next Year!



Please consider joining our Children's Book Project or Public Relations committee. Contact me at lorimccall@sbcglobal.net for more information. Thank you!

Judy Carey

News from the Treasurer

TIME TO PAY STATE AND LOCAL DUES FOR 2022-2023

We finally get to meet again in April!!! We have had a good response from our members paying their state and local dues. I guess a little incentive like a \$75.00 Visa gift card helps get those dues paid. If you missed out on the March deadline, you still have time to meet the April deadline for a \$50.00 Visa gift card to be won at our May meeting.

A new membership year has begun!!!! The State Membership Committee is offering an incentive again to reward its dedicated local units for their recruitment efforts: M&M: Membership and More encourages local units to recruit/renew as many members as possible by June 30, 2022, for a chance to win a cash prize! We have come remarkably close in past years to winning, so please get your dues paid now, and help C-FB RSPA be a winner!

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues so far. I did not even have to remind you. In the meantime, for those of you who have not paid, it is now time to pay your state and local dues. March 1 is the start of the membership year for 2022-2023. If you have your state dues taken out of your annuity or paid by a bank draft, all you need to pay is your local dues of \$10.00. In order to have your name entered in the drawing, you need to pay your local dues. Make your check out to C-FB RSPA in the amount of \$45.00 for state and local dues and mail to me at 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019. If you have questions, please email me at judy.carey@verizon.net or call me at 214-498-9867.

Remember if you have any changes in your information, please let me know. If you are retiring soon, if your email address changes, etc., I need to know.

We appreciate your membership and hope you plan to renew NOW for 2022-2023.



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

kathymcwhorter@verizon.net

Or call 972-742-9513

Kathy McWhorter
Sunshine



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

Thank you to all who have contacted your candidates. I have heard from thirty-three RSPA members who have talked to candidates or their staff. Please continue to contact candidates and let them know that Carrollton-Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association and TRTA are voices they need to acknowledge.

Questions you might ask:

- If elected, will you support keeping the defined BENEFIT plan for all current and future school retirees?
- If elected, what will you do to ensure the fund becomes actuarially sound so that a permanent COLA can be provided for TRS retirees?
- If elected, would you be willing to support and introduce legislation to improve benefits for retired educators?
- If elected, what will you do to fix the funding mechanism for TRS-Care?
- If elected, will you work to increase the program's permanent base funding? How much additional base funding would you suggest for stabilizing the TRS-Care plan?
- If elected, will you work to permanently increase funding for TRS-Care so that retired school employees have access to affordable, quality healthcare?
- For Congressional candidates: Will you support TRTA in our efforts to repeal the unfair and discriminatory Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset?

Will you meet with TRTA personnel and work for TRTA members while serving in Congress?
Again, a heartfelt thank you to all who are contacting candidates.

Kay Edmondson
Community Volunteer Service

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

MOTTO

“If it is to be, it is up to me.”

Volunteer Guidelines

- Volunteer hours may be counted for any service provided without pay with a maximum of 12 hours/day.
- Hours spent doing volunteer work are recorded door to door and include prep time.
- Record volunteer hours regularly. A date book or calendar is useful.

Where to Volunteer

- Schools, Libraries, Museums, and any Non-profits
- Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- Friends, Neighbors, and Family
- Raising money for worthy causes
- Church

REPORT YOUR CVS HOURS TO: Kay Edmondson / mce60@verizon.net



Estelle Lara
Food Pantry at Metrocrest Services



Food Drive for METROCREST SERVICES

Wednesday, April 20, is the day to bring your donations for Metrocrest’s food pantry. Did you know that 47% of their funding comes from corporations, foundations, and people like US? My spouse and I will be collecting canned and dry goods right outside our meeting place.

These items are urgently needed, but other items are also welcome.

Please, no glass items.

Cereal	Canned veggies and meat	Canned pasta
Laundry detergent	Toothpaste	Feminine hygiene
Baby diapers	Adult diapers	Baby wipes
Shampoo	Body wash and bar soap	Soup
Peanut butter	Mac and cheese	Deodorant
Toilet paper	Toothbrushes and toothpaste	Household cleaners

Rather write a check? Just make it out to **Metrocrest Services**, and your donations will go toward buying much needed pantry items. Please write this on your calendar. I forget this every year!!



Lori Smith
Lunch Coordinator

Welcome back from The Lunch Bunch!

We are looking forward to getting together again in April, and by popular demand, we will again be serving Alonti Box Lunches! Please make your choice below and let Judy Carey know your selection when you register.

When RSVP’ing please choose a **number** for your Alonti Catering Kitchen selection.

1. Honey Ham on Marble Rye
2. Roasted Turkey on Ciabatta Roll
3. New England Chicken Salad on Wheat
4. Roasted Chicken on Focaccia
5. Beef Brisket on Jalapeno Roll

Sandwiches are served dry with mayonnaise, mustard and Dijon packets on the side. Chips and a fresh-baked jumbo cookie are included. The cost is \$12

Please RSVP by April 15th to **Judy Carey: judy.carey@verizon.net** or call 214-223-1218 Let her know your selection choice.



**Carol Sprawls
Healthy Living**

Congratulations to the four C-FB RSPA WAT 2022 Teams! Our teams ranked very high for the number of miles walked in Region X eight-week physical challenge. Below are the rankings for C-FB teams out of fifty-two teams:

Shaima Hakimi's Spring Chicks, 3rd place

Lori McCall's, One Trek Minds, 4th place

Becki Tucker's Trail Trekkers, 7th place

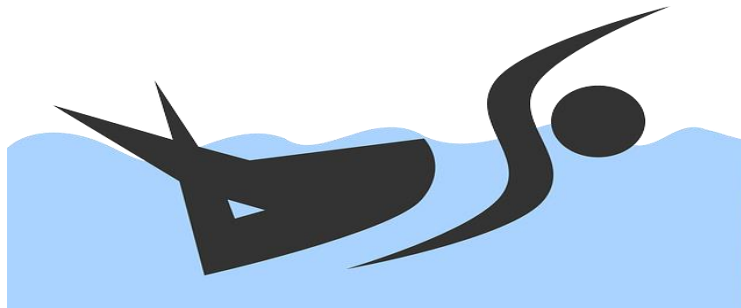
Barbara Gilbert's Far-Flung Fillies, 30th place

In addition, we had three teammates recognized as Star Walkers of the Week: **Kim Kockritz, Shaima Hakimi, and Steven Browning (Shaima's SIL).**

Our Team Captains worked diligently to encourage their teams, and some held Zoom meetings to promote friendship among teammates. Thank you to **Shaima Hakimi, Lori McCall, Becki Tucker, and Barbara Gilbert** for your leadership!

Participants had numerous positive take-a-ways. Below are a few of MANY:

- "My heart health is improving."
- "The more I move, the better I feel."
- "WAT keeps me from being a weather wuss!"
- "I'm more joyful and appreciative of the outdoors."
- "I'm developing a habit and routine of walking."
- "The team spirit is motivating."
- "My pants fit better!"
- "I loved getting better acquainted with my teammates on Zoom. That time was both inspirational & supportive."



"WAT 2022 was a tremendous success for all involved!"

Debbie Moss
TRTF Liaison

TRTF (Texas Retired Teacher Foundation) Activity

A silent auction is being held as a fundraiser for our TRT Foundation during the TRTA convention in Dallas. Member associations were asked to consider donating a gift basket or gift cards to help with this effort. Our board decided to donate \$250 VISA gift card. Members who attend the convention will have a chance to bid on items and the proceeds will go to the foundation.

Just a reminder: The money raised by TRTF funds have several initiatives including: The Helping Hand, The beginning Teacher Scholarships, and Classroom Assistance Grants.

The Helping Hand Initiative provides public education retirees with charitable assistance for a one-time special need or other short-term hardship. If you or someone you know needs some immediate, short-term assistance, please contact me. The application process is completely confidential. My number is 972-978-2649.



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