

C-FB RSPA

Newsletter

December 2023

Della Swaim

President

BAKE SALE --- BAKE SALE --- BAKE SALE --- BAKE SALE

We are having our annual bake sale at our December meeting! YUM!

This is a special event to fund the C-FB RSPA grants to first year CFBISD educators to aid them in setting up their first classrooms.

EVERYTHING WILL BE ONLY \$5 per package.

Checks will be tax deductible if made out to CFB Educational Foundation.

(Must have your name and address on check!)

Cash or check accepted.

PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Bake Sale donations can exceed value of purchase!

Please contact Lynn Scifo 972-824-1358 or Maxwell Kashiwa 214-415-2458 if you would be willing to bake.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear Dr. Eldredge, Dr. Rohwer, Dawn Parnell, Building Administrators, Arts Directors, and Student Performers,

We, members of C-FB RSPA, want to thank you for the wonderful Retired School Personnel Appreciation Luncheon on November 8, 2023! We honor you for presenting such a lovely, warm, and personal event for our members! The performances by the Perry Middle School Jazz Ensemble, Newman Smith Gallery in Motion Dance Company, Central Elementary Orff Ensemble, and Creekview Legends

Show Choir were flawless and represent the fine programs taking place in all of the CFBISD schools. Thank you again!

Della Swaim, President of C-FB RSPA



Hosts and guests at the Retired School Personnel Appreciation Luncheon

SPECIAL NOTE: Please see the end of this newsletter where a letter from Educational Foundation Director Donna Wald thanks our members for their support.

Pat Enlow

Legislative Chair

Voters approve our COLA

We did it! Our COLA will begin in January 2024. We certainly did our part. C-FB RSPA distributed 140 yard signs, 90 buttons, nearly 3,000 push cards, and educated voters in countless encounters, emails, and on social media. We informed through candidate forums and I recruited one candidate to distribute push cards in campaign materials. THANK YOU, RSPA members!

Another benefit, Prop 9 received 23,827 more votes than Prop 4 which will give us leverage in future legislative sessions to obtain future COLAS. I

hope you took the opportunity to thank your legislators through Tim's November 7 Inside Line Action Alert. If you have not done so, call or email your senator and representative and thank them for their support.

Time to focus on WEP

On the Federal level, the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset are currently being addressed in H.R.82 Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 which repeals provisions that reduce Social Security benefits for individuals who receive other benefits, such as a pension from a state or local government. This bill eliminates the government offset pension, which in various instances reduces Social Security benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers who also receive government pensions of their own. This bill also eliminates the windfall elimination provision, which in some instances reduces Social Security benefits for individuals who also receive a pension or disability benefit from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes.

In 2022, the Speaker of the House did not allow this bill to reach the floor of Congress. Please contact your representative in Congress and encourage him/her to support and vote for H.R.82 should it reach the floor of the House during this session. For many of you, that would be Rep. Beth VanDuyne (TX-24) 972-966-5500, 202-225-6605. Encourage her to become a co-sponsor. There are 305 of the 435 Representatives who have signed on as co-sponsors. Rep. VanDuyn is not listed a co-sponsor.

Thank you, again, for your enthusiasm and effort in getting out the vote for Prop 9!

Shaima Hakimi

1st Vice President, Membership

Please join me in welcoming JoAnn Louis and Sonya Morrison as our newest members.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION!

AMBA is offering a great incentive to help local units recruit new members.

Want to know how?

An AMBA representative will be coming to our February 21, 2024 meeting. Not only they will go over the countless benefits and perks being offered to TRTA members, they are going to pay one-year TRTA membership plus their local fee of \$45 for any guest joining TRTA during the February 21 meeting. In addition, the member who brings the guest or guests, can get a free lunch for that day!!!

I know I am planning to have my free lunch that day as I plan to bring many guests... LOL!

So please encourage your friends and family members to join us and get their first-year dues paid for by AMBA.

What a deal!!!

Looking forward to seeing you at our December 13 meeting.

Pat Enlow

2nd VP, Programs

Four Singing Chabot Sisters Headline December Luncheon

Please join us on December 13! We are going to have a joyous celebration of the holidays for our program in December. The Chabot Sisters will entertain us with songs, including a sing-along! These girls are SO talented.

Ruby is a junior in high school and was just recently crowned Miss Metroplex's Teen in the Miss America Organization. Ruby is also a 3rd Lieutenant on her drill team, The Silhouettes. She is performing right now as Anastasia in the Broadway musical, Anastasia, at the Actors Conservatory Theater (ACT) in Lewisville.

Lola is a freshman in high School and just gave up her crown as Miss Carrollton's Teen 2023 in the Miss America Organization. You can see Lola performing in the Christmas show, Miracle on 34th Street, at The Firehouse Theatre.

Hazel is in 7th grade and is a singer and dancer. She has been training since she was 4 years old. She is also teaching herself to play guitar!

Eliza is a 5th grader and is a Lone Star Princess with the Miss America Organization. She loves to sing and dance and her favorite pastime, at the moment, is crocheting. She makes the cutest crocheted stuffed animals!

These young ladies are the daughters of Joanna and Rick Chabot of Farmers Branch.

A very special shout-out to Linda Bambina, who helped arrange this program. I hope you'll join us to see this talented family and enjoy the sing-along!



Ruby



Lola



Hazel



Eliza

Every 2nd Grader Gets a Book

In April, 2024, we will be delivering over 2,000 books to Grade 2 students across C-FBISD!

I have contacted all 24 elementary schools and the majority feel their students will be at reading levels 1st - 4th by the end of the year.

As always, our goal is to provide each student with a new book that can be taken home to help maintain reading skills over the summer.

At right is a picture of some of the books I have found at Dollar Tree. Most are \$1.25 each.

We welcome donations of new books or money from RSPA members. "Gifting" bags will be on tables at the December meeting. Consider giving a donation in a dollar amount equal to the number of



years you were in education or the number of years you were in C-FBISD. Checks can be made out to C-FB RSPA. If donating books, please check reading level and be sure that content is appropriate.

Judy Carey

Treasurer

Time is running out to pay dues for 2023-2024

As you are reading this newsletter, please check to see if you have paid your state and local dues for 2023--2024. We will start collecting dues for 2024-2025 beginning at our February 2024 meeting. If you have not paid, please put your check in the mail today.

TRTA removes a member from their list as an active member if they have not paid their state dues in three years. Are you one of those members who will be removed? When you are removed, you will no longer receive our newsletter or any updates that are sent out to active members.

Please check to see if you have paid your dues. 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). You can also pay using ZELLE. Use judy.carey@verizon.net to pay with ZELLE.

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 C-FB RSPA.

Please mail your check to

Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019.

If you have any questions about whether you have paid dues, either email me at judy.carey@verizon.net or call 214-498-9867.

Mary Eisenmann

Retirees' Educator

Retirement Ed Seminar for Pre-Retirees

A very useful Retirement Ed Seminar for pre-retirees will be presented on Zoom, Saturday, January 27, 2024.

For any of your friends who are still working and helping students in schools, but are thinking of retiring within the next five years, please let them know about the Zoom Retirement Seminar sponsored by TRTA with a representative from TRS. They will be getting this info in their school email with the link to register before December 14.

A TRS Speaker from Austin will present: Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Benefits with comprehensive handout and forms.

Reservations are REQUIRED. *SPACE IS LIMITED*

Please make reservations for each person attending (spouses welcome) by January 15. On the reservation form, for organization/business, enter CFBISD.

Questions? Contact the C-FB RSPA volunteer coordinator Mary Eisenmann mary.eisenmann@gmail.com

Lori Smith

Lunch Bunch News

WHO LOVES TO DECORATE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

We are going to offer our CFB RSPA GROUP a chance to show off a beautiful holiday decorated table at our next meeting on December 13.

If you would like to help decorate on Tuesday, December 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., we will be opening the fellowship hall to anyone who wants to help.

If you have a special holiday centerpiece or table decorations to share, come and join us. We only have 12 tables, so text me (Lori Smith) if you want to reserve one. I have white plastic tablecloths but you may bring your own if you so desire. We did this last year and I thought it was beautiful to have such a festive room. If you have any questions just call me at 214-223-1218.

Our lunch will be provided by Two Guys From Italy and we will be having salad, lasagna, and bread. Cost is \$12, and please let Judy Carey know you are coming.

Plan to find your dessert among the items in the Bake Sale at this meeting!

Wishing all of you a very Happy Holiday Season!

Stefani Johnson

Field Trips

Farmers Branch Historical Park Tour

Come enjoy a special seasonal treat, *A Celebration of Christmas: Traditions Around the World*. Explore rich holiday traditions from across the globe as we honor different countries and cultures. Guests will tour several historical structures and learn how the holiday season has been celebrated throughout the years. Fee is \$5 per person.



10 - 11:30 a.m. December 5

2540 Farmers Branch Ln, Farmers Branch, TX 75234

If you are interested, please email or call

Stefani Johnson sapntx@msn.com 214-316-9190

Lunch - Starwood Cafe (on your own) starwoodcafe.com 12990 Bee St., Farmers Branch, TX 75234

*Optional Activities:

*Cox Farms Market, 13091 Bee St. (same shopping center as Starwood Cafe)

*The Rose Gardens of Farmers Branch, 2610 Valley View Ln.

Chili Cook-off and Bingo January 17

Please join us for an afternoon of great chili and Bingo games.

Wednesday, January 17 from noon to 3 p.m. at Webb Chapel Church of Christ (our normal meeting place).



We'll have a sign-up sheet at the December meeting to list what you will bring: Chili, chips, crackers, cornbread, cheese, sour cream, relish tray, salad, drinks, dessert

If you are bringing chili, please give it a name (not yours), write down a few of the ingredients and come at 11:30 to set it up.

Bingo is \$5 per person.



We will need several people to help set up the room at 10:30. If you are unable to sign up at the meeting, please RSVP with the items you will bring no later than January 14.

Stefani Johnson
214-316-9190 (text or call)
sapntx@msn.com

(The backup date will be January 24 if the weather doesn't cooperate on the 17th)

Pat Revall

Member Benefits

Texas Retired Teachers Association offers a variety of different programs for insurance. They offer dental and vision services such as cleanings, X-rays, crowns, and implants. Medical insurance helps pay for medical and other costs if you are injured in an accident.

Additional Member Benefits (AMBA) offers discounts on lodging, travel, security, and entertainment.

LODGING - Drury Inn and Suites, discount portal for Days Inn, Wyndham, and Hotel Planner.

SECURITY - Acadian on call.

TRAVEL - Rental cars through Avis, Budget, and Enterprise with rotating sets of offers for cruises, events, and concerts.

ENTERTAINMENT - Dallas Zoo for online discount tickets program, movie tickets, events, sports, and concerts.

I found this information online at TRTA.org: select Benefits and scroll down to Additional Member Benefits.

Carol Sprawls

Health and Safety

Merry Christmas to All!

It's the time of year when you might be planning for all the delicious food you'll be preparing and eating during this festive time, but also wondering if you will make healthy choices. The Health and Safety Committee offers an activity to get you involved in FUN physical activities that help curb appetites, burn calories, and contribute to better health. It is called **WAT 2024!**



Let me introduce **Walk Across Texas (WAT)**. WAT is an eight-week program designed to establish the habit of regular physical activity using a fun and motivating team approach. WAT was developed and sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife. Each adult team may include up to eight RSPA members working together towards accumulating the equivalent of walking 832 miles across our great state of Texas. Many of you have participated in this program before with positive benefits.

Dates: February 25 - April 20, 2024

Team Members: 80% must be members of our C-FB RSPA chapter; all outside participants must be 50+ years old.

Recognition on the District 10 Level:

- 1) The Chapter with the most miles accumulated over the eight weeks.
- 2) The Chapter with the largest percentages based on miles/participant.

How to Count Mileage: Walking or any other physical activity counts towards daily total mileage, such as biking, swimming, dancing, rowing, gardening, golfing, playing pickleball or tennis, Yoga, Pilates, or anything physical.

The Sign-Up Deadline is January 20, 2024. Copy the link below and paste it into your COMPUTER search engine to sign up. Please consider being a Team Captain, as we must have one captain for every seven team members. Call Carol at 214-505-5569 or Maxwell at 214-415-2458 with questions.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EP_OB8b-7SBsczevG6FZikFrmEMPcIMhMH9uWHOGcPs/edit#gid=0

Estelle Lara

Community Outreach

RSPA donates to Thanksgiving Day Soup Kitchen

Our RSPA group participated very well by gathering canned goods, boxes of potato flakes, trash bags, etc., and even some frozen turkeys for the 2023 Thanksgiving Day soup kitchen to be held at the North Dallas Family Church at 1700 S. Josey Ln.

In addition, our RSPA group donated more than \$450 to this event. We agreed to help Amici's and Joe's Pizza with our donations. They do welcome more assistance, like money and turkeys, if you want to stop by and ask for Carolyn Benavides.

Thank you for all you do to help others in the community.



Carolyn Benavides and Estelle Lara

Kay Edmondson

Voluntarism

Volunteer hours reports for 2023 are due

Individual reports of volunteer hours are due no later than January 20, 2024. Email Volunteer Hours Reports to Kay Edmondson at mce60@verizon.net

Volunteer hours are counted from January 1 through December 31, 2023.

A lump sum of hours is all that is needed - a breakdown by month is not required.

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 and travel time.

Record volunteer hours regularly. A datebook or calendar is useful.

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER:

Schools, libraries, museums, and any non-profits

Hospitals and nursing homes

Friends, neighbors and family

Babysitting grandchildren and cooking meals for family and friends

Driving family members and friends to appointments

Senior citizen centers and other community services

Raising money for worthy causes

C-FB RSPA Online

Our website has helpful information and interesting photos. For example, you can always go there to preview monthly program topics. Go to cfbrspa.atwebpages.com

Kathy McWhorter

Sunshine Committee

RSPA Members,

Please email me at kathymcwhorter@gmail.com or text me at 972-742-9513 to let me know when someone needs a get well, sympathy or encouragement card. I send cards for illness if the recipient is a member or in a member's immediate family.

I look forward to seeing EVERYONE in December!



Directors

Mary Lovell Board
Chairman
MLS Group

Carolyn Benavides
Benavides Family Charities
CFBISD Trustee Member

Dr. W. Lesley Black, Ph.D.
Southern Methodist University

Dr. Linda Braddy, Ph.D.
American Red Cross
North Texas Region

Catherine Carlin

Dr. Barry Dodson

Robert Dye
Woodhaven Partners

Dr. Wendy Eldredge, Ph.D.
CFBISD Superintendent of Schools

Pat Enlow
CFB RSPA

Luke Erlenbusch
Retail Insights, LLC

Elizabeth Martini
Texas Oncology

Jeannette Papadopoulos
Boys & Girls Clubs of Denton County

Dawn Parnell
CFBISD

Cristal Retana-Lule
Children's Health

Alex Sagcal
Sam Packs Five Star Ford Carrollton

Laurie Spindler
Office of Chief Counsel
Department of Treasury

Christy Spivey
Istation

James Weichel
Washington Federal Bank

Laurie Wilson
City of Carrollton

Staff

Donna L. Wald
Executive Director, Educational Foundation

October 13, 2023

Retired School Personnel of Carrollton-Farmers Branch
c/o Della Swaim
1628 Thomas Lane
Carrollton, TX 75010

Re: Donation of \$500.00

Dear Friends of the CFB RSPA,

We wanted to take a moment to thank you for your generous gift to the CFBISD Educational Foundation supporting the CFB Giving House. Your support means so very much – more than you know. Please retain this document for your tax purposes – CFBISD EF EIN: 75-2696093.

Your support and partnership help the CFBISD purchase unused clothing and hygiene items for the district's students in need. We never know if and when one of our students will need our assistance, but thanks to your help, we will have resources to provide those goods to our 25,000 students.

The quality of today's education truly impacts tomorrow's community. Your generous gift to the Foundation represents a true investment in to the future, one that can and will lead to exponential dividends and lasting benefits.

The CFBISD Educational Foundation deeply appreciates your commitment to promoting excellence in public education.

Please feel free to contact the Educational Foundation at 972-968-4362 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Wald
Executive Director