

# Newsletter

April 2024

## Della Swaim

President

**GREAT NEWS!** I recently received a letter informing me that our C-FB RSPA program, **A Book a Child**, will receive a grant of \$750 in May from Carrollton Women's Club! We owe them a debt of gratitude. The money will be used to purchase books for the second grade students in C-FBISD. Because the cost of the books we donate each spring has increased so much in the past couple of years, we made a grant request to Carrollton Women's Club to help us pay for them. Many of our C-FB RSPA members also belong to Carrollton Women's Club. If you know any of the CWC members personally, please tell them, "Thank You!" for their support.

Our Book Committee has made a request that we each donate \$1 (or more) per year that we worked in education to our book fund. Please consider supporting our program financially.

**TRTA 2024 State Convention.** On April 15-17 seven of our C-FB RSPA members will represent our chapter at the TRTA State Convention in Corpus Christi. The following will attend; Anita Shepherd, Shaima Hakimi, Lynn Scifo, Maxwell Kashiwa, Pat Enlow, Lee Nitcholas, and Della Swaim. We hope to return with many new ideas to help make C-FB RSPA even better.

Our outgoing District 10 President, Gary Schepf will be running to be elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the State TRTA. Gary has been a terrific President of District 10 for the past two years. He has made our District 10 meetings fun and interesting! Gary will be at our C-FB RSPA May meeting to install our new 2024-2026 officers.

Please help us welcome Gary and the District 10 Historian, Donna Gooding to our May meeting.

# Lyn Abercrombie

## End-of-Year Survey

We want your input! Help us to be the best ever by taking our End-of-Year Survey! Do it by midnight, Monday, May 13, and you'll be entered in a drawing for \$20!

To find the survey, click [here](#), or:

- 1.) Go to our website: [cfbrspa.atwebpages.com](http://cfbrspa.atwebpages.com)
- 2.) Scroll down to the bottom of the page
- 3.) Click on "End-of-Year Survey"

# Pat Enlow

## Legislative Chair

### School Board and City Council Elections Soon

We have another election coming up on May 4, 2024. In this election, you will have the opportunity to choose Board of Trustees members and City Council members. These elections are extremely important as they determine the future of our schools and cities. These candidates often go on to run for State offices, so you do want to research and choose carefully.



I have listed candidates in Carrollton and Farmers Branch. If you wish to find candidates in another school district, go to your district's website. If you wish to find city council candidates in another city, go to your city's website.

Candidates will be available from 10:00 am - 10:50 am at our April 24th meeting to talk with you and answer any questions.

Early Voting - Monday April 22 - Tuesday, April 30, 2024  
General Election - Saturday, May 4, 2024



**CFBISD Board of Trustees**

This election uses Cumulative Voting. There are two seats up for election, so you may cast 2 votes. You may cast your 2 votes for the same candidate or cast 1 vote for each of two candidates. The two candidates with the most votes will be elected.

#### Candidates (alpha order)

Marjorie Lee Barnes [barnesforcfb@gmail.com](mailto:barnesforcfb@gmail.com)

Lives in Farmers Branch

Has lived in Texas 42 years (Farmers Branch area 14 years)

Self-employed

Paul W. Gilmore -- no contact info

Lives in Carrollton

Has lived in Texas 42 years (Carrollton area 5 years)

Realtor

Cassandra Brannan Hatfield [hatfieldforcfb@gmail.com](mailto:hatfieldforcfb@gmail.com)

Incumbent/President

Lives in Carrollton

Has lived in Texas 33 years (Carrollton area 8 years)

Senior Research Project Manager

Luis Antonio Palomo -- no contact info

Lives in Carrollton

Has lived in Texas for 41 years (Carrollton area for 15 years)

ProIT/AV Entrepreneur

#### **Carrollton City Council**

Places 1, 3, 5, and 7 are up for election. You may vote for 1 candidate running for each Place.

Some candidates do not have contact information. I am still working with the city to obtain this information and will send it in an email once complete.

#### Candidates

Place 1 - Christopher Axberg Incumbent

Giles Borders

Laura Ann Stephenson Vola, [lauraforcarrollton@gmail.com](mailto:lauraforcarrollton@gmail.com)

Has lived in Carrollton 2 years and Texas 2 years

Property Management

Place 3 - Richard Fleming Incumbent Running unopposed

Place 5 - Nancy Cline Incumbent

Adam Polter

Susan Elizabeth Thomas no contact info provided

Has lived in Carrollton 17 years and in Texas 39 years

Business owner - Administrative Assistant

Place 7 - Simon Chamakala no contact info provided

Has lived in Carrollton 13 years and in Texas 24 years

Registered Nurse

Rowena Gianchand Raroque-Watters no contact info

Has lived in Carrollton 9 years and in Texas 24 years

Administrator

### **Farmers Branch City Council**

Districts 3 and 5 are up for election. You may vote for 1 candidate running for each District.

#### Candidates

District 3 - David Richard Reid 508-813-5355 (running unopposed)

District 5 - Kyle Douglas Burton no contact info

Has lived in Farmers Branch 7 years, in Texas 41 years

Consultant/Real Estate Agent

David Scott Merritt, Incumbent

[votedavidmerritt@gmail.com](mailto:votedavidmerritt@gmail.com)

214-649-3041

Has lived in Farmers Branch 21 years, in Texas 35  
Real Estate Agent

Roger Lee Neal

rogerneal@usa.com

Has lived in Farmers Branch 5 years in Texas 26 years  
Consultant

## **Shaima Hakimi**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Membership**

Please join me in welcoming the following new members:

Sheri Gibson

Suzanne Ginsburg

Susan Kelley

Michael Miller

Noelle Miller

Estela Ohm

Jan Theobald

Rita Tremblay

Our current membership is at 377. TRTA dropped several members who had not paid their dues for three consecutive years, but luckily we added eight wonderful new members in March. Yay!!

A reminder that our cash incentives for membership dues are in full swing.

For those current members who have paid their dues by the end of March, we will do the drawing of \$80 cash during our April 24 meeting. You don't have to be present to win.

The drawing of for \$55 cash incentive will take place in our May 15 meeting for all those members who have paid their dues by the end of April. The last one of \$35 cash incentive drawing will take place during our June board meeting.

We are still honoring the ongoing incentive to invite a friend or family member to any of our meetings and if they join and become a member by the end of the meeting, you will both receive gift cards.

Good luck everyone!

## Beth Sargent

Field Trips

### All Aboard: Grapevine Vintage Railroad, May 4

Sign up is closed but it's not too late to purchase your own ticket. We do have, however, one (1) discounted ticket if you are interested. Contact Beth at 234-789-9612. If you have signed up, you will be receiving details mid April.

## Pat Enlow

2nd VP, Programs

**April is Hat Month.** Wear your favorite hat to the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting!

What do the Kentucky Derby, Bruno Mars, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Carlos Santana, Indiana Jones, and Kenny Chesney have in common? The Milano Hat Company is the official hat company for each of them! In fact, 75% of the hats sold in the United States are made by the Milano Hat Company. Scott Starnes, Executive Vice President, will share stories, videos, pass around a variety of hats, and tell us how hats are made and marketed.



Let's have a little fun! Wear your favorite hat to the April 24 meeting. I know you have a favorite hat, cap (Texas Rangers?), fascinator, beanie, Easter bonnet, gardening or sun hat.

See you all on the 24th!

# Becki Tucker

## Member Benefits

Happy Spring! Happy Easter!

It's that time of year when we need to think about our taxes. Here is an article from AMBA/TRTA.

### Annuity: A Tax-Deferred Asset Protection

Do you sometimes lie awake at night thinking about your retirement income?

If you're concerned with your income level or your future income, a Tax-Deferred Asset Protection might be right for you. If you're concerned about leaving your beneficiaries something, this may help make that dream a reality. Also, an annuity can help you maximize your Social Security and future income.

The single premium tax-deferred annuity from TRTA and AMBA features tax-deferred accumulation of interest, a guaranteed competitive interest rate, multiple payout options, and a nursing home waiver.

If you are interested in getting information that applies specifically to you about a Tax Deferred Asset Protection, call Jeremy Brown, AMBA Area Representative for TRTA District 10 at 214-930-7740 or email him at [jeremy.brown@amba.info](mailto:jeremy.brown@amba.info) or call the number on the website below.

AMBA is the endorsed benefits provider for the Association.  
[HTTPS://WWW.MYAMBABENEFITS.INFO/TRTA/ANNUITY](https://www.myambabenefits.info/trta/annuity)

# Judy Carey

## Treasurer

### **Please pay your state and local dues for 2024-2025**

I know my articles in the newsletters are the same month after month, but there is not much else to say than to pay your dues now.

Thank you to the members who have already paid their dues for 2024-2025, but it is time for a reminder to put those dues in the mail or pay at our next meeting. A new membership year has begun!!!

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. TRTA state dues are \$35 and local dues are \$10. Make your check out to C-FB RSPA in the amount of \$45 for state and local dues and mail to me at 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019. We are now accepting ZELLE as a form of payment for your state and local dues. If you use ZELLE, use my email [judy.carey@verizon.net](mailto:judy.carey@verizon.net) not my phone number. If you have questions, please email me at [judy.carey@verizon.net](mailto:judy.carey@verizon.net) or call me at 214-498-9867.

Please try to pay your dues each year. If you miss paying one year, you will become an inactive member of TRTA and C-FB RSPA. The more members we have paying their dues, the more delegates we are able to send to the TRTA State Convention. It is very important to stay current on your dues.

Remember if you have any changes to your information, please let me know.

We appreciate your membership and hope you plan to renew NOW for 2024-2025. Hope to see you on April 24, 2024

## **Lori Smith**

### **Lunch Bunch**

Our next meeting will be held on April 24th, 2024. We will be serving a variety of sandwiches, chips and a delicious dessert for \$12! You do not have to choose anything for this lunch. Just be sure and let Judy Carey know you are coming and if you want lunch! We look forward to seeing you there and having a great time together!



# Linda Bambina

Children's Book Project

**A**B<sub>ook</sub>/**C**hild

This year we are giving NEW books to ALL 2nd graders in CFB-ISD. There are 24 elementary schools in five geographical areas. In order to deliver all 2,000-plus books to this far-flung area, we will need several cars/SUVs to help us in April. **Please volunteer!**

Book plates have been stamped and inserted into each new book.

Please buy and donate brand-new books appropriate for 2nd grade-going into 3rd grade (Guided Reading Levels E-M/ 1st-4th)

Remember, these are children moving from little “caterpillar-readers” to lovely “Flutterbys”!



Can't easily do any of the above?

Then **please donate** a dollar per year to RSPA. (Consider the number of years you taught or your age or a combination of both!)

*Cash, check or Zelle.*

Cash or Check? Bring to the meeting or mail to Judy Carey.

Zelle: again → Judy Carey's email thru your bank.

# Estelle Lara

Community Outreach

## Volunteering at Metrocrest Services Pantry

On Wednesday, April 24, we will be taking up money donations as well as food donations for Metrocrest Services. You may wonder how busy they are. Did you know that over 2,500 households rely on the pantry each month for fresh produce, pantry staples, and household essentials? In addition, both inflation and processing time for SNAP benefits have intensified the need for assistance. They told us that “We now witness an average of 11 new families seeking food aid daily!”



These are the most urgent pantry needs this month: feminine hygiene products, canned corn, toilet paper, toothpaste, diapers, cereal. I'll have my blue RAV4 out front in the church parking area with the back door open, ready to take your donations. By the way, a dollar can get three meals! See you Wednesday, April 24.

## Kay Edmondson

Voluntarism

### Volunteer hours for 2024

Email Volunteer Hours to Kay Edmondson at [mce60@verizon.net](mailto:mce60@verizon.net)

Volunteer hours are counted from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

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

#### 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 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
- Caregiver for Family members or friends

## **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](http://cfbrspa.atwebpages.com)

## **Kathy McWhorter**

### **Sunshine Committee**

RSPA Members, please email me at [kathysmcwhorter@gmail.com](mailto:kathysmcwhorter@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 April!