



## From the President

Lee Nitcolas

Spring is here in all its glory and it is beautiful! Bluebonnet patches are beginning to pop up around the Metroplex and the days are warming up. I think it might be safe to plant the little tomato plant Bill won as a door prize at our last meeting. Now we just have to fend off the rabbits and we will be eating fresh tomatoes soon!

Members have been busy with Gavel Travel and planning to attend the TRTA State Convention. Linda Tole, Lyn Abercrombie, Pat Enlow, Judy Carey, Beth Sargent and I visited Lewisville Area RSPA, a part of TRTA District XI, on February 18. We enjoyed their hospitality, got some insight into another District, made new connections, and saw an interesting meeting. We appreciate the warm welcome we received from our neighbors to the north.

District X Executive Board met on Thursday, March 31. We heard local unit presidents give their reports on Gavel Travel. Our report was well received and we were praised for “thinking out of the box” by going to a meeting in another District. We also got updates from all the committee chairs including Member Benefits. Pet Insurance is now available through our organization (see last page of this newsletter). I suppose this is a sign of our times. And we are happy to announce District X has shown an increase in membership over the past year. Everyone is preparing for the state convention, and we were given program information and apprised of plans for the District Caucus.

Our delegates are leaving the week of April 10 for Houston. Della Swaim, Nichie Hoskins, Mary Bass, Mary Eisenman and I will be representing C-FB RSPA. Nichie replaces Pat Enlow who will not be able to attend due to the death of her mother. Our sympathies go out to Pat and her family.

We will report on the convention at our next meeting on April 20. We also look forward to Dr. Bobby Burns speaking about plans for the future of C-FB ISD. We are meeting at CHRISTUS St. Joseph Village this month and look forward to another lovely meeting. See you there!



## April Program

CHRISTUS St. Joseph Village, Coppell  
Pat Enlow, 2nd VP, Programs

A wonderfully informative program is planned for our April 20, 2016 meeting at CHRISTUS St. Joseph Village in Coppell. A member of the C-FB ISD Board of Trustees will demystify the new "Cumulative Voting" process for us so that we can use our votes effectively.



See you Wednesday, April 20. Social hour at 11:00 and program/lunch begins at 11:30. Lunch \$10.

RSVP by Wednesday, April 13 to Della Swaim by text: 214-926-6981 or email:

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

## Membership

Della Swaim, VP for Membership

Our C-FB RSPA membership has steadily increased over the past few years. In 2013-2014 we had 280 members.

In 2014-2015 we had 295. And in 2015-2016 we have 305 members. We keep track of these numbers because a strong membership speaks volumes when we speak to our legislators about the issues that are important to every retired school person--issues like helping us keep our pension fund a “defined benefit” plan, and making sure our health insurance stays solvent.

Equally important to each of us is keeping abreast of the issues facing public education. Texas retired teachers are the best cheerleaders for Texas public schools. You are very important people for the children of Texas!

But one of the best reasons for belonging to C-FB RSPA is the camaraderie we share with our education friends. This is the season when many educators are retiring. Please help us contact them and invite them to become part of our organization. Invite your friends to come to our luncheon and to join. Pick up the yellow contact cards at our meeting and pass them to your friends. If they join when they visit, they get a free lunch. See, there *is* such a thing as a free lunch!

Be sure to tell me if you are bringing a guest! We like to be prepared to welcome them.

## It's That Time Again Your dues are now due for 2016-2017

Judy Carey, Treasurer

Beginning March 1 we start paying our dues for the new membership year 2016-2017. Your dues will be **\$45.00** (\$35.00 for state dues and \$10.00 for local dues). Please be prompt in paying your dues. Dues should be paid March through September each year and after that they are overdue. You can **bring a check or cash to our meeting on April 20** or you can **mail me** your check: **Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019.**

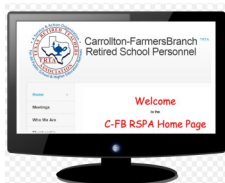
It is important that you pay your dues so we can add more power to TRTA. Numbers matter and we need to increase our membership numbers every year. We also need to keep our current members renewing their membership. The only way to do that is to pay your state and local dues. If you know someone who is interested in joining C-FB RSPA, please ask them to attend one of our meetings.

Also, a reminder for the members who might have retired recently please let me know when you retire so I can change your status to Member and not Associate Member.

Members who pay their state dues by bank draft out of their annuity or pay directly to TRTA, please consider paying your local dues of \$10.00. Your local dues are used to run our organization. If you have not attended one of our meetings recently, you will be surprised how much our attendance has grown. Our officers work very hard to have interesting programs, plan field trips and keep you informed of everything going on in TRTA.

You can call me at 972-393-2956 and I can answer any questions you might have about your dues. If you are paying your dues at the meeting, it would help speed up the check in time if you could have your check already filled out. You can include your lunch in your check with your dues. Lunch will be \$10.00 since our meeting is at CHRISTUS St. Joseph Village. If you are paying your dues with cash, please put your money in an envelope with your name on it and the amount you are paying.

Hope to see you at the meeting.



### View us on the Web!

Our C-FB Retired School Personal Association has a website with helpful information and photos!

The address is [localunits.org/CFBRSPA](http://localunits.org/CFBRSPA)

Please note: if you are typing that address into your browser, you must use capital letters for CFBRSPA.

## Community Volunteer Service

Kay Edmondson

- Volunteer hours are reported from January through December each year.
- Volunteer hours are reported for any service you provide without pay.
- Maximum number of hours that can be reported is 12 hours/day.
- Travel time is included in the hours reported--from the time you leave home until you return.
- Email volunteer hours to: Kay Edmondson at [mce60@verizon.net](mailto:mce60@verizon.net)

Numbers do count...in public relations with taxpayers!

Numbers do count...with Legislators when the value of education retirees' volunteerism is considered during legislative negotiations!



## Field Trip to The Firehouse Theatre

Linda Bambina is getting another group together to see the next fun-fun musical from The Firehouse Theatre for the Sunday Matinee, on either April 24 or May 1....tbd by those who want to attend *[title of show]*.

**YES! That's really the title of the show:  
*[title of show]!!***

The synopsis goes something like this:

Jeff and Hunter, two struggling writers, hear about a new musical theatre festival, but the deadline for submissions is a mere three weeks away. With nothing to lose, the pair decides to try to create something new with the help of their friends on the eighty-eights (aka: piano).

*"It's a love letter to the musical theatre - a uniquely American art form - and to the joy of collaboration."*

Please contact Linda at

[lindabambina42@gmail.com](mailto:lindabambina42@gmail.com) or 972-241-7556 and join in the fun at The Firehouse Theatre.....new risers....new restrooms and great \$2 popcorn!

## Meeting dates remaining for 2015-2016

**April 20** – CHRISTUS St. Joseph Village, Coppell

**May 18** – Webb Chapel Church of Christ, Farmers Branch



## TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Mary Eisenmann

### HOME AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

**MetLife Auto & Home Insurance** 1.877.491.5089

This group insurance program could help save you hundreds of dollars a year. In addition to special group discounts on auto and home insurance, TRTA members also have the opportunity to apply for renter's insurance, condo, boat, motor home and RV coverage, among other policies. For more information about the group discounts offered through this program, please call 1.877.491.5089 and mention discount code CIC.

### IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

**CSID** [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)

Identity theft protection is available to TRTA members through CSID. For \$9.00 a month you can start protecting your identity from one of the fastest growing crimes in America. Most identity theft solutions only provide credit monitoring. CSID not only provides credit reports and monitoring, it also provides non-credit loan activity, public records monitoring, criminal record monitoring, Internet monitoring, restoration services, and \$25,000 of identity theft insurance.

### PET PROTECTION

**Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI)** [www.petinsurance.com/amba](http://www.petinsurance.com/amba)

TRTA is pleased to offer veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI), a Nationwide Insurance Company, as a benefit to its members and their beloved furry friends. Members can enjoy a 5 percent discount on their pet insurance premiums. Coverage is available for dogs and cats, as well as exotic pets including birds.

### DENTAL INSURANCE

**Ameritas Group Dental Insurance** 1.800.258.7041

[www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)

This plan has very generous benefits plus a two-year rate guarantee. Through the plan, you and your family will receive comprehensive and flexible dental coverage. The plan provides you the freedom to visit any dentist or specialist when you need care.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

**Association Member Benefits Advisors** 1.800.258.7041

[www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)

Long-term Care/Home Health Insurance; Medicare Supplement Insurance; First Diagnosis Cancer Insurance; Cancer and Dread Disease Insurance; Single Premium Tax Deferred Annuity; Final Expense Life Insurance.

**Always ask for senior discounts and visit [www.trta.org/](http://www.trta.org/) member benefits for all TRTA benefits.**



## A Letter from Tim Lee

Executive Director, TRTA

Do you know someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, or suffered a heart attack or stroke? Have you thought about what you would do in that situation? Would you be able to continue your current quality of life with additional monthly expenses while you're recovering?

Consider this: Men have a 1 in 2 lifetime risk of developing cancer. For women, the risk is a little more than 1 in 3<sup>1</sup>. And every 34 seconds, someone has a heart attack<sup>2</sup>. For those reasons, the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) endorses the Flexible Choice Cancer, Heart Attack & Stroke insurance policy which can help ease the financial challenges that arise when a critical health event occurs.<sup>3</sup> This policy is underwritten by Cigna Supplemental Solutions®, through Loyal American Life Insurance Company.

- Issue ages 18 – 99
- Lump sum benefits from \$5,000 to \$100,000<sup>4</sup> in benefits
- Customize your policy to suit your budget and lifestyle by adding optional riders<sup>5</sup> to increase benefits
- Guaranteed renewable for life<sup>6</sup>
- Pays your selected benefit regardless of any other insurance you may have
- No tobacco questions on the application

This policy can help with expenses so you can focus on what's important — getting well. We encourage you to consider adding this benefit to your overall healthcare package. **Call 1-888-994-7519 to get a quote.**

<sup>1</sup>American Cancer Society, Cancer Facts & Figures 2014, Page 1.

<sup>2</sup>The Heart Foundation, Heart Disease Facts, Heart Disease Statistics (<http://www.theheartfoundation.org/heart-disease-facts/heart-disease-statistics/>), accessed 3.26.15

<sup>3</sup>Heart policy not available in GA.

<sup>4</sup>A maximum total of \$100,000 of coverage is available for similar policies from our combined family of companies. In KS, SC and WA the benefit amount range is \$25,000-\$100,000. In GA, the benefit amount range is \$5,000-\$30,000.

<sup>5</sup>Optional riders available for an additional premium. Not available in all states.

<sup>6</sup>Subject to the company's right to increase premiums on a class basis.

<sup>7</sup>NerdWallet Health, Mar 26, 2014: <http://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/health/2014/03/26/medical-bankruptcy/>

### Insured by Loyal American Life Insurance Company.

Use of statistics does not imply endorsement of any kind. This is a solicitation for insurance. A licensed agent will contact you. **THE LUMP SUM CANCER AND HEART ATTACK AND STROKE POLICY provides limited benefits and should be used to supplement existing medical coverage. THE LUMP SUM CANCER POLICY IS A CANCER ONLY**, which should be used to supplement existing medical coverage. Availability may vary by state. The Lump Sum Cancer and Lump Sum Heart Attack & Stroke policies do not satisfy the requirements of minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation, including Loyal American Life Insurance Company. The Cigna name, logo, and other Cigna marks are owned by Cigna Intellectual Property, Inc © 2015 Cigna. 1CHS1215-GN