



## From the President's Pen

Della Swaim

Our December meeting is a great time to get in touch with our recently retired colleagues who have not yet attended C-FB RSPA, and invite them to attend to hear C-FB ISD Superintendent, Bobby Burns, speak. As I remember from when I retired, by December I was fed up with inactivity and ready to find outside stimulation. **SO, call your friends and invite them!** Make your reservation with Wanda Patterson, and **bring something to donate to the Metrocrest Food Pantry** for December 13<sup>th</sup> at Webb Chapel Church of Christ.

Many things have been confusing for TRS retirees this past year. Our retirement fund continues to be threatened by people who want to dismantle it, and our TRS health insurance has been through an overhaul that has caused many of us to be confused and have many questions. **To compound the problem, there have been many rumors and much misinformation given out.** These rumors and misinformation have been sent to all TRS retirees by insurance companies hoping to profit financially from the alarm and confusion they have caused. **Please note that RSPA does not recommend or endorse insurance agents, companies, or options other than those TRS and TRTA have offered.**

It is our policy that no member uses C-FB RSPA Directory information to further private interests or to invade the privacy of our members.

**Tim Lee, our TRTA Executive Director,** has worked tirelessly to keep us all informed about the insurance changes in his newsletter **THE INSIDE LINE.** However, many retirees either do not belong to TRTA, have not subscribed to the **FREE THE INSIDE LINE,** or do not read what is sent to them. **If you are confused or have friends who are confused, please feel free to call me or have your friends call me, and I will either try to help you clear up the confusion or find someone else to help you. This is my home phone number. 214-483-6574. IF YOU CALL, PLEASE SPEAK CLEARLY, LEAVE YOUR COMPLETE NAME AND PHONE NUMBER, AND I WILL RETURN YOUR CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** This is a vital issue for all of us, and it is important for us to get it right!

Please consider joining our Legislative Teams to visit our legislators and candidates to let them know of our wishes as retired teachers. Contact Leta Nelson or Nichie Hoskins and volunteer to help. You can do that at our December meeting.

**I hope to see you there!**

## Meeting: Wed., Dec. 13

Webb Chapel Church of Christ

13425 Webb Chapel Rd., Farmers Branch 75234

11:00 meet and greet; 11:30 program/lunch. Lunch \$10.

RSVP by Wed., Dec. 6 to Wanda Patterson by email: [pattersonwow@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonwow@gmail.com) or text: 214-766-1431.

Collecting donations for Metrocrest Food Pantry.

## Program:

### Dr. Bobby Burns and A Book a Child Raffle

Pat Enlow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Programs, Children's Book Project, Publicity



I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving full of fun and bountiful blessings. Among items on my 'grateful' list are RSPA and all our members. What an awesome organization it is and full of such caring people!

Well, our December meeting has become synonymous with **Dr. Bobby Burns!** We love his energetic presentations, so you won't want to miss this meeting! He always **updates us on the 'State of C-FB ISD'** and all the exciting things going on in the world of education.



**A Book a Child Raffle** benefiting our **Children's Book Project** will also be a part of the program this year. Don't miss the opportunity to buy one or two or three or ??? more raffle tickets during Social Time! We will draw for all 28 items! Remember, you need not be present to win, but we hope to see you!

Since we do not have another meeting before the holidays, I want to wish each of you a very **Merry Christmas/happy holiday** and a **Happy New Year,** too.

## Upcoming Meetings:

**December 13, 2017**

**Program:**

*State of C-FB ISD Annual Message.* Dr. Bobby Burns; and *A Book a Child Raffle* benefiting Children's Book Project

**February 21, 2018**

**Program:** *What You Should Know About Probate*

*Before It's Too Late.* Shannon Willis, Willis Law Firm

**April 18, 2018**

**Program:** *Beware: Common Drug Interactions.*

Speaker from Baylor Scott White

**May 16, 2018**

**Program:** *The Golden Voices of the Silvertones.*

Woody Schober, Director



## News from the Treasurer

**Last chance to pay dues  
for 2017-2018**

Judy Carey, Treasurer

You are almost out of time to pay your state and local dues for 2017-2018. We start collecting dues for 2018-2019 beginning at our February meeting. So.....if you have not paid, please put that check in the mail today. 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). We really need your support by staying an active member in our organization. If your state and local dues are not paid, you become an inactive member with TRTA.

Please mail your check to **Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Dr., Coppell, TX 75019**. If you have any questions about whether or not you have paid dues, either email me at [judy.carey@verizon.net](mailto:judy.carey@verizon.net) or call **972-393-2956**.



## Membership

Wanda Patterson, VP for Membership

I hope everyone enjoyed a great Thanksgiving Day with lots of food and family to share in the festivities.

Thanks to everyone who attended our October meeting! It was great to see such a grand turnout! Our next meeting will be December 13, at Webb Chapel Church of Christ. Please plan to attend, and bring a guest! Please also remember to RSVP by the deadline, December 6, and if you must cancel after the deadline, don't forget to send a check for \$10 to Judy Carey to cover your lunch.

Please continue to invite any education retiree or any friends of education to visit our meetings and get involved in our efforts to preserve Texas Public Education. We want to continue to increase the membership of TRTA in order to have an effective voice with the Texas Legislature. Remember we will have a drawing for a gift card in May for those who have invited people who become new members.

Our December meeting is the time when we bring nonperishable food items, household paper goods, and toiletries to donate to the **Metrocrest Services Food Pantry**. Please bring what you can to share with those in our community who are in need. Metrocrest Services will also gladly accept monetary donations.

## Food Pantry at Metrocrest Services

Terrie Grimes



Do you want to do a small deed that will have a big impact? Well, here's your chance. At our December meeting, we will be having our annual drive for Metrocrest Services Food Pantry. Of course **non-perishable cans of food** dated 2018 or later are always needed, especially canned meat (but NOT tuna), soup and fruit. The pantry can also use **household items** such as laundry detergent, cleaners, paper towels, and baking goods, such as small bags of corn meal, flour, sugar, cake mixes, etc. Please buy average size containers, not jumbo family size.

My crew and I will be in the church parking lot to accept your donations as you come into the meeting.

Yes, **cash donations** are most welcome. In fact, Metrocrest can make their dollars stretch a lot further by buying items at North Texas Food Bank than we can at our local grocery store. We will accept cash or check donations. **Please make your checks out to: Metrocrest Services** and your donation will go toward buying much-needed items at the Pantry. Tax-deduction receipts will be given upon request.

If you'd like to join me in volunteering at Metrocrest Services Food Pantry, Friday shifts are crucially needed at the moment. Let me know if you're interested and I'll help you get in touch with the volunteer coordinator.

If you have questions about your donation, please call me, Terri Grimes, at 972-247-3993.

Thank you!

## Welcome to our New Members

Barbara Benson

Kimberley Downs



## Children's Book Project: A Book a Child

Pat Enlow,  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Children's Book Project



First, **I wish to thank a very special group of people** who have worked so diligently on this first-time project – our **Children's Book Project Committee members: Della Swaim, Gail Schwamb, Carolyn Chiever, Dara Stewart, Nancy Prochaska, Vicki Barkley, Tara Hrbacek, and Lori Smith.**

We are always hopeful that RSPA members may know of an individual, group or business willing to donate to this very worthwhile project as **Credit Union of Texas** did this year. If you know of anyone, please contact Pat Enlow at 972-393-8662 or [patenlow@verizon.net](mailto:patenlow@verizon.net). All money collected is used to buy new books for C-FB ISD students.



Also, a HUGE THANK YOU once again to all who have contributed to the Children's Book Project through our **ABC Raffle** and 'giving' bags placed on the tables. We collected \$332 at our October meeting.

Congratulations to **Darcy Perrault, winner** of the **A Book a Child Raffle** October Door Prize – a restaurant gift card!

### What you need to know:

- ◇ At our December 13 meeting, you will have one **last chance to purchase tickets** for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 between 11:00 and 11:30.
- ◇ Drawings for all 28 door prizes will take place at the December 13 meeting. (See pictures below.) You need not be present to win.
- ◇ If you purchase tickets, you will automatically be entered into a drawing for a special door prize.
- ◇ If you do not want to participate in the **ABC Raffle**, you may donate as in the past: \$1 for each year of service in education OR whatever you wish! The 'giving' bags will be on the tables.





## Our Next Field Trip The Star in Frisco

Beth Sargent, Linda Frith,  
Lee Nitcholas, Sharla Lee

The Dallas Cowboys World Headquarters at The Star in Frisco is a destination created to allow fans to connect with the team in ways that they have never imagined. The VIP Guided Tour will give Cowboys fans a chance to experience the place where the Dallas Cowboys train and work 355 days of the year. With small group sizes and additional tour stops, the VIP Guided Tour is the ultimate tour experience.

Come join us on our next field trip **tentatively scheduled for January 30** with **back-up dates on January 31 and February 1**. The tour tickets are purchased in advance and cost \$25. We will be signing people up at our December meeting so be sure and bring your money to reserve a spot!

Our outing will begin at the church (Webb Chapel Church of Christ) for carpooling to Frisco. We will take the tour then have lunch at a restaurant on site (restaurant to be determined). This is an amazing venue that is still under development and changing constantly.



## Take Care

Linda Bambina  
Information & Protective Services

## Be Prepared for the ER

The hospital emergency room deals effectively with sudden health problems; however, you and your family must be equipped, informed, and prepared to participate actively in your own care to make sure that you have a positive outcome.

**Create a cheat sheet** in triplicate (ER, ambulance, and yourself) with current medications, dosages, and dispense times. Include known allergies, insurance information, family contacts, power of attorney, and specialty doctors. **Be prepared to speak up** if the caregivers seem to be going in a different direction from what you know about yourself or your loved one. Go with patience. Stay calm. Leave your valuables at home.

*(Kreis, Tricia Hughes. "Prepare for the Emergency Room." <caring.com>. n.d. and Dr. Amy Jo Baker, I&PSC).*



## Upcoming Field Trips

January 30, 2018 (Tuesday)  
or possibly 1/31 or 2/1,  
depending on the playoffs.

**The Star in Frisco**

March 7, 2018 (Wednesday)

**Texas Tulips in Pilot Point**

June 6, 2018 (Wednesday)

**Chocolate Angel Café and Tea Room**

## Count Your Volunteer Hours



Just a reminder about volunteer hours. Our volunteer hours are reported from January 1 – December 31, 2017. **DEADLINE FOR REPORTING 2017 VOLUNTEER HOURS IS JANUARY 15, 2018.** Please report all hours monthly to me via email at [mce60@verizon.net](mailto:mce60@verizon.net) (Kay Edmondson) or at the monthly meetings. REMEMBER, any time you volunteer at church, schools, senior centers, hospitals, watch grandchildren or volunteer for any service without pay, this all counts as volunteer hours.

## Sunshine

Kathy McWhorter

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

[kathymcwhorter@verizon.net](mailto:kathymcwhorter@verizon.net)



Our Field Trip to the  
Dallas Arboretum  
November 2017



# TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

## Insurance Benefits

**Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) • 1.800.258.7041 • [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)**

Provides long-term care/home health insurance; first diagnosis cancer; heart attack and stroke insurance; cancer treatment insurance, Medicare supplement; final expense whole life, and tax-deferred annuities.

**Ameritas Group Dental Insurance • 1.800.258.7041 • [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)**

Freedom to use any dentist and no network required. Routine cleanings and exams are part of the plan and there are no referrals required for specialty care. For plan information/billing call 1.800.258.7041, and to locate a network dentist in your area call 1.888.239.3336.

**Aetna • 1.888.299.0919 (TTY: 711) • [www.healthspire.com/TRTA](http://www.healthspire.com/TRTA)**

It's the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare. So we've made it easy with a suite of products for TRTA members. We've also created an exchange where you can go for more information at [www.healthspire.com/TRTA](http://www.healthspire.com/TRTA).

**Educators Professional Liability Insurance • 1.800.880.1650 • [www.trta.org/memberbenefits](http://www.trta.org/memberbenefits)**

John A. Barclay Agency, Inc. offers insurance for qualified TRTA members returning to the classroom. Members must be receiving a W2 from a public school district or public college/university and be employed as either as a substitute teacher or in a full-time professional capacity other than administration (subject to the exclusions of the policy). The \$1,000,000 policy is available for an annual charge of \$39. Download a copy of the application at [www.trta.org/memberbenefits](http://www.trta.org/memberbenefits). Renewals and new applications for this insurance will be accepted by TRTA through January 31, 2017.

**Private Practice Educators Professional Liability Insurance • 512.476.6566**

Insurance available through the John A. Barclay Agency, Inc. for qualified TRTA administrators or educators returning to work in capacities other than the classroom. The \$1,000,000 policy is available for an annual charge of \$313. Visit [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org) to enroll.

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

Nationwide pet insurance provides association members with a 5 percent discount on new pet insurance policies. To learn more, visit [www.petinsurance.com/amba](http://www.petinsurance.com/amba).

## Medical Benefits

**American Hearing Benefits • 1.888.200.5701 • <http://www.americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba>**

AHB offers members a complete hearing evaluation, warranty on digital hearing technology aids in any style, loss and damage protection, and batteries with a complete benefit package. Use code AMBA. To learn more call 1.888.200.5701 or visit <http://www.americanhearingbenefits.com/partners/amba>.

**Hearing Aid Express • 1.866.478.8782 • [www.hearingaidexpress.com](http://www.hearingaidexpress.com)**

It's back, and it's better than ever! TRTA has made arrangements through a state-wide network of hearing healthcare professionals to provide benefits to TRTA members at no additional cost. Member benefits include complimentary hearing evaluations and a 10% discount off of everyday prices on hearing aids. For more information regarding the TRTA Hearing Healthcare Benefits Plan call toll-free at 1.866.478.8782 (TRTA) or visit [www.hearingaidexpress.com](http://www.hearingaidexpress.com).

**Medical Air Services Association • 1.800.258.7041 • [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)**

MASA is dedicated to providing life-saving emergency assistance from home or while traveling domestic or international. The coverage is designed to protect members against catastrophic financial loss when emergencies arise. To learn more, call 1.800.258.7041 or visit [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta).

**Texas Mobile Imaging • 1.281.392.5685**

Texas Mobile Imaging offers 3 painless cardiovascular ultrasounds for the early detection and prevention of stroke due to fatty plaque buildup in the carotid arteries of the neck, sudden death from rupture of an unbound abdominal aorta aneurysm and leg

amputation due to (P.A.D.), which is blocked arteries in the legs. TRTA Members receive a discounted price of \$110 (\$135 regularly) for all 3 vascular scans (\$300 - \$1500 each in hospital) which will also include complimentary ultrasound scans of the thyroid, gall bladder, liver and kidneys for any stones, cysts, or tumors that could be cancerous, as well as complimentary heart rhythm screening for atrial fibrillation. Free educational workshops on the prevention of stroke and vascular disease and actual scans can be done at TRTA local unit meetings. Call Joey Wyatt at 1.281.392.5685 or email [joey@txmobileimaging.com](mailto:joey@txmobileimaging.com).

**Vision Service Plan (VSP) • 1.800.258.7041 • [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta)**

Vision Service Plan (VSP) is the largest national quality eye care company. When visiting a VSP network provider, you will receive an eye exam and lenses every 12 months, and frames provided once every 24 months after a minimal co-pay. To learn more, call 1.800.258.7041 or visit [www.myambabenefits.info/trta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/trta).

## Lodging Benefits

**Drury Inn & Suites • 1.800.378.7946 • [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com)**

TRTA members receive 5% discount off Drury's corporate rates at the more than 100 Drury Inn & Suites in nineteen states (discounts are not available when hotels are on "peak status"). Amenities include a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, Belgian waffles & more, one hour of free long distance per room per night, evening beverages and snacks from 5:30-7 p.m. and high-speed internet access in every room & wireless lobby. To make reservations, call 1.800.378.7946 and provide Corporate ID #311435 or visit [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) and use BizTrip Corporate ID #311435.

**La Quinta Inns & Suites • 1.800.753.3757 • [www.LQ.com/TRTA](http://www.LQ.com/TRTA)**

TRTA members receive up to a 10 percent discount off La Quinta Inn and Suites best available rates nationwide. Go online [www.LQ.com/TRTA](http://www.LQ.com/TRTA) to book your next stay. You may call 1.800.753.3757 to reserve over the phone and mention code "TRTA." Discounts are subject to availability and blackout dates may apply.

## Security Benefits

**Acadian On Call • 1.800.259.1234 • [www.acadianoncall.com](http://www.acadianoncall.com)**

Summon help at the touch of a button for any emergency! Choose the package of your choice and begin to experience the safety, security and peace of mind offered by Acadian On Call's Emergency Medical Certified Dispatchers. Use or mention the promotion code "TRTA" and receive free shipping! Established 1971, Acadian provides medical alert systems to over 19,000 subscribers nationwide and ranks in the top 10 medical alert companies in the U.S. You may call 1.800.259.1234 or visit [www.acadianoncall.com](http://www.acadianoncall.com) to learn more.

**CSID • 1.800.258.7041 ext. 332**

Start to protect your identity from one of the fastest growing crimes in America. CSID provides non-credit loan activity, public records and criminal records monitoring, and identity theft insurance. Contact Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations at AMBA at 1.800.258.7041 ext. 332 to learn more.

## Travel Benefits

**AMBATravelPerx • 1.800.480.4080 • [www.ambatravelperx.com](http://www.ambatravelperx.com)**

Special offers are available on fantastic cruises, resorts, and escorted tour vacations to the Caribbean, Mexico, Panama Canal, Europe, Alaska, South America and Asia. To learn more call 1.800.480.4080 or visit [www.ambatravelperx.com](http://www.ambatravelperx.com).

**Avis Rent-A-Car • 1.800.331.1212 • [www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600](http://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600)**

For personal and/or business rentals, ask for the best rate and mention discount # (AWD) D404600 to receive up to 25 percent off the rental. To reserve online [www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600](http://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600) or call 1.800.331.1212.

**Budget Rent-A-Car • 1.800.527.0700 • [www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500](http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500)**

For personal and/or business rentals in making reservations, ask for the best rate and mention Budget Customer Discount# (BCD) X885500 to receive up to 25 percent off the rental. To reserve online [www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500](http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500) or call 1.800.527.0700.

**Cruise and Vacation Benefits • 1.855.577.9497 • [www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/amba](http://www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/amba)**

Provides lowest available pricing on all top cruise brands, worldwide escorted tour companies, and more than 600 resort properties. Receive a 4 percent vacation reward on the base fare of your trip and have access to special bonus offers on a monthly base.

**Enterprise Rent-A-Car • 1.800.736.8227 • [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)**

Enterprise Rent-A-Car is offering 10% discount to members when car is rented from an airport location and 5% discount when car is rented from non-airport location. Call Enterprise at 1.800.736.8227 for reservations or visit Enterprise Rent-A-Car. To receive your discount, mention this code: 65TRTA, online [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com) use code: 65TRTA & enter corporate code: TEX on second page.

**Orlando Employee Discounts • 1.877.413.3557 • [www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com)**

Save on your Orlando vacation with exclusive pricing on hotels & vacation homes in or nearby Disney World & Universal Studios, with discounts on tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Sea World, and All Orlando area theme parks and attractions. Use discount code AMBA.

**Road Scholar • 1.800.454.5768 • [www.roadscholar.org/trta](http://www.roadscholar.org/trta)**

For first-time travelers with Road Scholar, a \$200 discount for international and foreign travel, and a \$75 A world leader in educational travel that offers 5,500 educational tours in all 50 states and 150 countries. First time travelers with Road Scholar are eligible for either a \$200 gift certificate toward international travel, or a \$75 gift certificate for any North American Adventure. To learn more, call 1.800.454.5768 or visit [www.roadscholar.org/trta](http://www.roadscholar.org/trta).

## Entertainment Benefits

**1-800-Flowers Discount • [www.1800flowers.com](http://www.1800flowers.com)**

Members save 15 percent off when they call or shop online. Use code AMBA to receive discount. Visit [www.1800flowers.com](http://www.1800flowers.com).

**Apple • 1.877.377.6362 • <http://store.apple.com/us/go/epstore/amba>**

Members receive preferred pricing on some of the latest Apple products and accessories. Identify yourself as an “AMBA” member when calling. Not all products are eligible for preferred pricing. Use discount code AMBA. To learn more, call 1.877.377.6362 or visit <http://store.apple.com/us/go/epstore/amba>.

**Dallas Zoo Online Discount Tickets Program • <https://zootickets.dallaszoo.com>**

You are now able to buy discounted tickets for the Dallas Zoo with the added convenience of printing your admission tickets from your computer and presenting them at the entrance turnstiles bypassing ticket booth lines. Purchasing admission tickets has never been easier <https://zootickets.dallaszoo.com>!

**Dell Computers • 1.800.695.8133 • <http://www.dell.com/en-us/member/shop?s=eep&cs=6099>**

Dell now offers members special pricing under their Employee Purchase Program. Online <http://www.dell.com/en-us/member/shop?s=eep&cs=6099> and enter the TRTA ID GS41515384 and be taken to the Dell Employee Purchase Program. You may call 1.866.257.5900, give the code GS41515384 and speak with a sales consultant.

## Credit Benefits

**Reverse Mortgage Solutions • 1.800.258.7041**

For information contact Jeanie Coffey, National Director of Association Relations at AMBA at 1.800.258.7041 ext. 332.

*For additional details about TRTA’s member benefits, visit [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org), click on the Membership Tab, and then click on Member Benefits. (November 2017)*