



## From the President's Pen

Lee Nitcholas

It is the time of year we find ourselves moving on from April showers to May flowers, planning for graduations, summer vacations and looking back at the year that has passed so quickly. We have had a busy year and last month was no exception. Three things stand out...

**The Award...** Woody Schober, VP TRTA Region 10, presented the award for Exceptional Growth in Membership to C-FB RSPA at our last meeting. The award comes as a result of the efforts of many people; first and foremost is Della Swaim for her hard work coordinating activities as membership chair. A big thank you also goes out to our friend Kathy Brown for printing the color brochures used at retirement education events. And another thank you goes to C-FB ISD Superintendent, Dr. Bobby Burns, along with Angela Shelley Brown, C-FB ISD Strategic Communication Services Director, and Pam Pena, C-FB ISD Community Relations Coordinator, who have been so wonderful to include us in District events such as the end-of-year banquet for retiring staff, staff development and convocation. These events are an opportunity for us to connect with active teachers and those who will be joining us soon in retirement.

**Gavel Travel...** We took a group on our second Gavel Travel Trek in March. Linda Tole, Pat Enlow, Mary Eisenmann, Wanda Patterson and I attended the April meeting of Richardson Retired School Personnel. We were welcomed to lunch and an outstanding program of humor and Broadway show tunes sung by Tommy Ray Williams. What a talent! We enjoyed meeting with old and new friends, saw how another group does things and came away with some good ideas for the future.

**District 10...** This is the time of year that we attend TRTA District 10 Spring Leadership Conference, and this year we took 11 members of our Executive Board. TRTA Second VP, Leroy DeHaven, brought us a message from Austin and challenged us to stay informed and involved. The meeting was productive, and we came away with some good information and ideas. C-FB RSPA was responsible for arranging and serving the lunch to 200+ attendees at the event. Thanks to everyone pitching in, everything went off without a hitch and we had extra lunches to share with the staff that was so wonderful.



## May 17<sup>th</sup> Program

Webb Chapel Church of Christ  
13425 Webb Chapel Rd.  
Farmers Branch, 75234

Pat Enlow, 2nd VP, Programs

Another year is coming to a close! Our program for May is the **Induction of Officers for 2017-2019**. We have a very special guest who will conduct the ceremony. **Dr. Thalia Matherson** is TRTA District 10 President and also President of Dallas Retired Teachers Association. She attended our October meeting as part of her commitment to visit all 23 local units. Please welcome her!



I encourage you to fill out our online [End-of-Year Survey](#) if you have not done so. It is the best way to make your voice heard. I value your input as a guide to having the type of programs that are valuable for you. Please consider signing up for a committee—perhaps the Program Committee, Children's Book Project, or Publicity Committee. It is an easy way to become involved.

Thank you for another wonderful year as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. I have already begun plans for next year!

Social hour begins at 11:00 and program/lunch begins at 11:30. Lunch \$10. **RSVP by Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> to Della Swaim by text: 214-926-6981 or email: [jldhswaim@gmail.com](mailto:jldhswaim@gmail.com).**

**Our Officers for 2017-2019**

**President:** Della Swaim  
**1st Vice President, Membership:** Wanda Patterson  
**2nd Vice President, Programs:** Pat Enlow  
**Treasurer:** Judy Carey  
**Secretary:** Janet Truett



Gavel Travel: Pres. of RRSP Dana Gant, Wanda Patterson, Lee Nitcholas, Linda Tole, (not pictured), Mary Eisenmann, Pat Enlow



## Membership

Della Swaim, VP for Membership

Wow! It is almost summer again! I used to hear my Mom or my grandmother complain about how fast time passed, and now I am the one complaining. I'll bet you have experienced the same phenomenon! It makes me even more determined to make the most of every day. It also makes me feel grateful for the many friends I have! Thank YOU for being part of my circle of friends!

May is the month that has many of our school friends beginning to retire. If you know someone who is contemplating retirement soon, please contact them and invite them to our meeting or invite them to join our group. An easy way to do that is to just forward this newsletter to them. Be sure to include a personal note! Many new retirees don't know about TRTA or our chapter which is called C-FB RSPA (Retired School Personnel Association). One of the problems of keeping up with our school friends is that we have their school contact information but do not have their home email or phone numbers. If you contact someone to ask them to our meeting, please ask them for their home contact information, and pass that along to me so that I can contact them after they retire. The school email and phone are cut off very soon when someone leaves employment. Be sure to pick up a few of the yellow contact cards that we put on the tables at each meeting to hand to your friends and retired educators that you meet in the community. I handed one to a friend at church just this morning.

Please remember, if something comes up after you've sent in your RSVP for our lunch meeting, notify me of your cancellation before the deadline. Otherwise, the club must pay for your lunch. **Text: 214-926-6981 or email: [jldhswaim@gmail.com](mailto:jldhswaim@gmail.com)**. Thank you.

### Welcome to our recent new members:

Tara Hrbacek and Phyl Jost.

## News from the Treasurer

### *Dues, Dues & More Reminders of Dues!*

Judy Carey, Treasurer



Thank you to all you members who have joined/renewed your membership in TRTA/C-FB RSPA for 2017-2018. This will be our last meeting until September, so if you have not yet paid, why not pay your dues now after you read this newsletter?

1. Dues – Your dues are \$45.00 (\$35.00 for state and \$10.00 for local). **You must pay both parts to be an active member.**
2. If you are unable to attend our meetings where we collect donations for our Children's Book Project, consider adding a donation amount with your dues; that way you'd only write one check. We need the support of all members so that this project can continue. It is very rewarding putting a new book into the hands of a child for them to keep!
3. Dues can always be mailed to me at **975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019**. If you have questions about your dues, please email me at [judy.carey@verizon.net](mailto:judy.carey@verizon.net) or call me at 972-393-2956.
4. If you have changes in your email address or any other information about you, please let me know.
5. One last thing, your local dues of \$10.00 are so important to our local organization. This is where we get money to have programs, luncheon supplies, TRTA State Convention, yearbook, door prizes, etc. Take a look at our TRTA website [www.TRTA.org](http://www.TRTA.org) click on Local Units and go to our local organization to view information about C-FB RSPA. We really need your support to keep C-FB RSPA strong!!!!!!

See you at the meeting.

### TRTA by the Numbers

330,000	Retirees in Texas
81,000	TRTA Members
6,000,000 Volunteer Hours	\$150,000,000 worth of Services
370,000 Scholarships and Grants	Total \$250,000
148,000 Book Donations	Priceless

## Children's Book Project

Gail Schwamb, Carrie Bodle, Pat Enlow

The week of May 15<sup>th</sup> we will be delivering books to the schools listed below. Please look for an email soon with the exact time/date/place!

- ⇒ Blair Elementary
- ⇒ Blanton Elementary
- ⇒ Farmers Branch Elementary
- ⇒ Sheffield Primary
- ⇒ Sheffield Intermediate



Thank you for your generous contributions that make it possible to continue this valuable project of gifting each child with a new book to take home and keep.

## June 22 Field Trip Rangers Baseball!

Beth Sargent, Suzi Urban,  
Linda Frith, Linda Winkenhofer



Our last field trip is to watch the **Texas Rangers** play the **Toronto Blue Jays** at Global Life Park on **Thursday, June 22**. Game starts at **1:05 p.m.**

The price is **\$24** per senior/adult/child. **We will be collecting your money at our May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Are seats will be in the covered lower outside level (sections 45-48).

If you did not sign up at our last meeting, you can do so at our May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, or email Beth at [bsarg1923@tx.rr.com](mailto:bsarg1923@tx.rr.com).

Family members, including grandchildren, and friends are also welcomed to join us.

We will carpool from Webb Chapel Church of Christ or you can just meet us at the ballpark.



To those who will be going, I will email more information at the beginning of June.

Questions: contact Beth Sargent at 214-789-9612 (cell).

## Food Pantry at Metrocrest Services

Terrie Grimes



Help us out!

Do you want to do a small deed that will have a big impact? Well, here's your chance. At the May meeting, we will be having our annual drive for **Metrocrest Services Food Pantry**.

Of course non-perishable cans of food **dated June 2017 or later** are always needed, especially **canned meat (but NOT tuna), soup and fruit**.

But you may not realize that the Pantry also provides **household items** such as laundry detergent, cleaners, paper towels, etc., as well as hygiene items like shampoo, deodorant, feminine care items, and toothpaste. 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 in to the meeting.

And yes, cash donations are most welcome. Please make your checks out to: *Metrocrest Services*. Thanks to the generosity of Metrocrest Hospital Authority your gift to the food pantry will be **matched DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR** up to \$100,000 through June 30, 2017.

And, if you'd like to join me in volunteering, people to work the Monday- and Friday-morning shifts are crucially needed at the moment.

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

### Photos!

See photos from our April meeting here:

<http://www.localunits.org/CFBRSPA/assets/Image/2017/2017%20April%20meeting.jpg>

See all our 2016-2017 photos here:

<http://www.localunits.org/CFBRSPA/index.cfm/photos/2016-2017-sights/>



## Summer and Fall Travel Benefits

Mary Eisenmann, Member Benefits  
[mary.eisenmann@gmail.com](mailto:mary.eisenmann@gmail.com)

When you are planning your travel, here are the codes for the TRTA travel benefits. The newest ones are the *Cruise and Vacation Benefits* and the *Orlando Discounts*. Let me know if you use any of our benefits and how your experience with them was!

### Cruise & Vacation Benefits

This provides lowest available pricing on all top cruise brands, worldwide escorted tour companies, and more than 600 resort properties. Receive a 4% vacation reward on the base fare of your trip and have access to special bonus offers on a monthly basis. To learn more, call 1.855.577.949 or visit [www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/amba](http://www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/amba).

### Orlando Employee Discounts

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. To learn more, call 1.877.413.3557 or visit [www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com](http://www.orlandoemployeediscounts.com). Use discount code AMBA.

### 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

For personal or business rentals in making reservations, ask for the best rate and mention Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) # D404600 to receive up to 25% 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

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

### Enterprise Rent-A-Car

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 1.800.847.3722 for reservations or visit [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com). To receive your discount, mention this code: *65TRTA*, online use code: *65TRTA* & enter corporate code: *TEX* on second page.

### Road Scholar

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 [www.roadscholar.org/trta](http://www.roadscholar.org/trta).

## 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)



## Legislative Tools

### The Inside Line

If you are interested in email updates on issues pertaining to pension, health insurance, Social Security, and other hot topics, sign up for *Inside Line*. This email update is written by Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, and offers fact and opinion on the issues facing current and future education retirees. Sign up here: <http://trta.org/features/insideline/>

### TexLege

You can download an app on your phone called *TexLege*. It will give you all kinds of information about your legislators: what committees they are on, the issues in this session, the legislators' past voting records, district boundaries, local office addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and much more.



### View us on the Web!

Our C-FB Retired School Personnel 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 the address into your browser, you must use capital letters for CFBRSPA.

## Volunteer Hours For 2017

Kay Edmondson

Count your Volunteer Hours and email Kay Edmondson with your count.  
[mce60@verizon.net](mailto:mce60@verizon.net)



The State of Texas likes to know how many hours retired school personnel give back to the community. Hours are counted from January 1 to December 31, 2017. Keep track of your volunteer hours and report them monthly or in a lump sum at the end of the year.

Count obvious things such as volunteering as a school mentor as well as counting hours spent babysitting grandchildren and care-taking ill family members; even count the hours driving to and from such tasks.