



From the President's Pen

Della Swaim

Love is in the air! At least I hope love is in the air for you. No matter how old we are, it is important to have love in our lives. Love and kindness are contagious. The more you give the more you get back. SO, HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

The Mission of TRTA states: "The Texas Retired Teachers Association advocates improved benefits for all education retirees and promotes the well-being of its members."

As an organization, C-FB RSPA is fulfilling that mission by providing interesting and informative opportunities for our members. A big THANK YOU goes to Pat Enlow for arranging our programs and to Pat and our Legislative Committee, Nichie Hoskins, Lori Smith, and Leta Nelson for stepping forward when I asked them to plan and implement our C-FB RSPA first annual Candidates Forum. Great job! I am really excited about our upcoming Candidates Forum! Invite your friends to attend.

Our field trips have been outstanding! (Thanks Beth Sargent and friends!), and our Retirement Seminar is well planned and ready to go next weekend. (Thanks Kay Justus and friends!).

I would like to thank **you**, our membership. Your C-FB RSPA Board has tried many new things this year, and you have been supportive and helpful. Thank you!

And let's make it a great spring!

Thank you to the following C-FB RSPA officers have agreed to attend the TRTA State Convention April 8-10: Della Swaim, Pat Enlow, Mary Eisenmann, Judy Carey, Lee Nitcholas, Nitchie Hoskins (Alternate).

Upcoming Meetings:

February 21, 2018

Program: *What You Should Know About Probate Before It's Too Late.* Shannon Willis, Willis Law Firm
Candidate Forum

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

Meeting: Wednesday, February 21

Webb Chapel Church of Christ

13425 Webb Chapel Rd., Farmers Branch 75234

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

1:00 Candidate Forum (friends and neighbors are welcome!)

For lunch, RSVP by Wed., Feb. 14 to Wanda Patterson by email: pattersonwow@gmail.com or **text:** 214-766-1431.

For the Candidate Forum, RSVP by Wed., Feb 14 to Pat Enlow by email: patenlow@verizon.net.



Program and Candidate Forum

Pat Enlow, 2nd Vice President:
Programs, Children's Book Project, Publicity
Member TRTA District 10 Legislative Committee

Are you ready? We have a **double program** for you that you will not want to miss! First, **Shannon Willis** of the Willis Law Firm will present, "**What You Should Know about Probate Before It's Too Late,**" giving us valuable information on how to navigate the world of wills, estates, and what to expect. I believe that she will also provide us with a booklet that can be used to keep track of information you need to pass on to your heirs.



At 1:00, following our regular meeting, we will be conducting a **Candidate Forum**. You received an email earlier about the Forum. I have had an amazing response to requests sent to all candidates running in SD 16, HD 115, HD 65, and for Lieutenant Governor. **It is SO important to elect the candidates** who will work to fund TRS-Care, maintain our Defined Benefit Pension Plan, and push back against school vouchers. This is your opportunity to meet the candidates and hear what they have to say, so that you can make an informed decision. **These districts represent the majority of our membership. PLEASE plan to stay and let these candidates know that each RSPA member will exercise the right to vote!**

As of the writing of this article, the following candidates have accepted:

Senate District 16: Joe Bogen (D), Nathan Johnson (D)
Sen. Don Huffines (R) has not responded to the request.

House District 115: Rep. Matt Rinaldi (R), Rockwell Bower (D)
Julie Johnson (D) has not responded to the request.

House District 65: Rep. Ron Simmons (R), Kevin Simmons (D), Michelle Beckley (D) (Yes, you read that correctly; two Simmons are running!)

Lt. Governor: Scott Milder (R), who has a previously-scheduled appearance, will be represented by Dale Howard.
Michael Cooper (D), Kerry McKennon (L).
Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick (R) has a previously-scheduled appearance. Mike Collier (D) has not responded to the request.



News from the Treasurer

*It is time to pay dues
for 2018-2019*

Judy Carey, Treasurer

Happy 2018 to everyone. If you are one of the members who has not paid their state dues for 2017-2018, it is not too late. Just put a check in the mail so I receive it before February 14, 2018.

It's that time again to start thinking about paying your dues for 2018-2019. Starting March 1, 2018 your state and local dues are due, again. March 1 is the beginning of TRTA's membership drive. State dues will be \$35.00 and local dues will be \$10.00. **The total amount of your dues will be \$45.00.** The earlier you pay your dues the easier my job will be as your treasurer.

We have several members who are Associate Members, which means you were still working when you joined. If any of you have retired recently, please let me know so I can move your membership from "Associate Member" to "Member."

We also have many members who pay their state dues to TRTA or have state dues taken out of their annuity. PLEASE consider paying your local dues of \$10.00. We need local dues to run our organization. Without local dues C-FB RSPA would not exist. That \$10.00 comes out to \$ 0.027 a day.

When paying your dues make out your check to **C-FB RSPA**. If you pay your dues with cash, please put the cash in an envelope with your name on the envelope and give it to me at the meeting. It is always helpful to have your check filled out before you arrive at the meeting; this will speed up the check in process.

Hope to see all of you at our next meeting. You can always mail dues for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to me, **Judy Carey, 975 Laguna Dr., Coppell, TX 75019**. If I can answer any questions, please call me at 972-393-2956.

More pictures from our field trip to The Star are here:

<http://www.localunits.org/CFBRSPA/assets/Image/2018/FT%20The%20Star%20in%20Frisco%202018%20Jan.jpg>



Membership

Wanda Patterson, VP for Membership

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day! I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting on February 21. Don't forget to RSVP by February 14. If you RSVP as Yes, then need to cancel after the deadline, please remember to send a check for \$10 to our treasurer, Judy Carey, to cover the cost of your lunch.

Please continue to invite any retired educators who have not yet joined TRTA. You might send them a personal invitation asking them to attend our February meeting; include a link to our newsletter. Also, when you hear of friends planning to retire this year, please contact them and invite them to consider joining C-FB RSPA. REMEMBER, IT IS UP TO ALL OF US TO KEEP OUR ORGANIZATION STRONG!

When someone you invite joins C-FB RSPA, you are entered into Region 10's drawing for \$100.00, and you are also entered into C-FB RSPA's drawing for \$50.00! You will receive one chance for each new member you recommend! Keep inviting your friends. Thank you!

Welcome to our New Members

Jan Boomer LaDonna Conner
Ginger Couch Jan Jaeger



Volunteer Hours for 2018

Kay Edmondson

This is a reminder for you to **count your Volunteer Hours** and email me, Kay Edmondson, with your count. mce60@verizon.net

The State of Texas likes to know how many hours retired school personnel give back to the community.

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.

Hours are counted from January 1 - December 31, 2018.

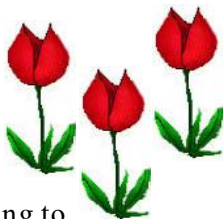
Keep track of your volunteer hours and report them monthly or in a lump sum at the end of the year.

Thank you!



Our Next Field Trip Texas Tulips

Beth Sargent, Linda Frith,
Lee Nitcholas, Sharla Lee



On **Wednesday, March 7th** we are going to **Texas Tulips** in Pilot Point. We will have an opportunity to pick our own beautiful bouquet of tulips while walking through the rows of colorful tulips. You can take the bulbs also if you want to plant them at home in your garden.

Pieter and Petra Koeman are originally from Holland. They visited Texas and found the weather and fertile soil perfect for growing their tulips. They settled in Pilot Point and established the first tulip field in Texas.

Details:

9:30 a.m. meet at Webb Chapel Church of Christ to carpool to Texas Tulips

12:00-12:30 lunch

2:00-2:30 return to church

Wear comfortable shoes!

Sign up at our February meeting, or contact

Beth Sargent: bsarg1923@tx.rr.com.



Take Care

Linda Bambina
Information & Protective Services



Be Prepared

Last December I quoted a writer and an ER doctor about being prepared for the ER with “cheat sheets” of information created long before they are needed.

This month, I would like to suggest you create other documents and find a single place to put them: in your computer, in a file cabinet, or in a large fireproof box you keep under your bed or in a closet. But wherever you put them, make sure your family **KNOWS** where they are since you probably won’t be able to tell them.

These papers are medical power documents, copies of your will, information about property, people, and wishes and wants about your own funeral, or whatever else you want people to know about you that would be relevant.

The idea suggested to us Information-and-Protective-Services chairs is that this “box” be accessible at home (not a lock box at the bank). And *as we think of things about our “stuff”* (or ourselves, if we became incapacitated or died suddenly), we put notes into that location/box.

I’m hoping we’ll have time to elaborate on this idea after our Program in February. There are some great ideas out there that need to be shared with our membership . . . but, the basic idea is: Plan Ahead!



Upcoming Field Trips

March 7, 2018 (Wednesday)
Texas Tulips in Pilot Point

June 6, 2018 (Wednesday)
Chocolate Angel Café and Tea Room

Photos!

Click below to see photos of our:

- Oct. field trip to Dallas Farmers Market
- Nov. field trip to Dallas Arboretum
- Jan. field trip to The Star in Frisco
- Sept., Oct., Dec. Meetings

<http://www.localunits.org/CFBRSPA/index.cfm/photos/2017-2018-sights/>



TRTA Benefit Highlights

Mary Eisenmann
Member Benefits

Remember with Flowers on Valentine's Day or Any Special Occasion

1-800-Flowers Discount

Save 15% at 1-800-FLOWERS.COM! Members use promotion code AMBA to receive their discount by calling 1-800-FLOWERS or visiting www.1800FLOWERS.com.

Travel Plans Just For You!

Drury Inn & Suites

TRTA members receive 5% discount off the 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 and use BizTrip Corporate ID #311435.

La Quinta Inns & Suites

TRTA members receive up to a 10 percent discount off La Quinta Inn and Suites best available rates nationwide. Go to 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.

Car Rental Discounts

Avis Rent-A-Car

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

Budget Rent-A-Car

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% off the rental. Call 1.800.527.0700 or reserve online at 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 1.800.736.8227 for reservations or visit Enterprise Rent-A-Car. To receive your discount, mention this code: 65TRTA, online www.enterprise.com use code: 65TRTA and on the second page enter corporate code: TEX

Always ask for senior discounts, and visit trta.org/membership/member-benefits/ for all TRTA benefits.

Food Drive a Success!

Terrie Grimes



Wow! What a generous group we are! At our December meeting, we donated 153 items for the Metrocrest Food Pantry, from green beans to laundry detergent and everything in between.

The volunteers were very excited to see our donation come in. In addition to that, we donated a total of \$285. for the Metrocrest general fund. As you know, Metrocrest can stretch its dollars at North Texas Food Bank a lot further than we can at our grocery store.

So, thank you to everyone who made this generous donation happen. And since food pantries need provisions all year long, be watching (and gathering) for our spring drive in May.

Sunshine

Kathy McWhorter



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

kathymcwhorter@verizon.net

Retirement Education

Kay Justus



C-FB RSPA and Richardson ISD RSP is cohosting a Retirement Seminar for soon-to-be retired school personnel of CFBISD and RISD on Saturday, February 10, starting at 8:00 a.m. at 701 East Belt Line, Richardson 75080. There's no charge for attendance, but prior reservations are required. Contact Kay Justus at 972-743-6392.