



From the President's Pen

Della Swaim

You do not have to eat lunch to attend our C-FB RSPA meetings! Your

Executive Board wants you to know that you are always welcome to attend our meetings whether or not you choose to buy your lunch. You may bring a brown bag and eat with your friends, or you can arrive about 12 o'clock and stay for our meeting. We just want you to attend and feel welcome.no explanation is necessary. See you on February 20th!

TRTA State Convention

This year's TRTA State convention is scheduled to take place in Austin on April 1-3. There will be an abbreviated convention and then we will visit the state capital on Wednesday for "Rally Day" to visit with our representatives on the Texas Legislature.

The "talking points" we will be using with the Legislators are listed in the latest issue of *The Voice*. As always, we will be asking them to put funds into TRS to make it actuarially sound so that Cost of Living raises can be given to all TRS retirees. We also need their help to make our TRS health insurance more affordable. Please read those "talking points" and let us know your opinions. For your convenience, here is a link to the most recent

The Voice: https://trta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NEW.TRTA-VOICE4thQ2018.Web_.pdf



The number of members of TRTA has increased dramatically this year. Last year at this time there were 82,000 members in TRTA. This year, there are well over 92,000 members! The goal is to reach 100,000 members by the end of the year. Please help us reach this goal by inviting your friends and colleagues to join.

The following are those attending the TRTA State Convention: Della Swaim, Wanda Patterson, Pat Enlow, Lee Nitcholas, Beth Sargent, Lori Smith, and Nichie Hoskins.

Please keep us in your thoughts and keep supporting TRTA.

Meeting: Wednesday, February 20

Program: Rose-Mary Rumbley, Humorist

*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., Feb. 13 to **Wanda Patterson** by email: pattersonwow@gmail.com or text: 214-766-1431.

Collecting donations for Metrocrest Food Pantry



February Program

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

One of our favorite speakers will be returning to entertain us with humorous stories and life experiences. **Rose-Mary Rumbley** is a Dallas icon who is an actress, teacher, tour guide, and humorist. If you are ready for some fun and laughs, you won't want to miss this program.



Upcoming Programs

April 17, 2019

Program: Dr. John Boyd, "History of Parkland Hospital" (Includes interesting info and pictures about JFK assassination.) (Dr. Boyd will have his books available for purchase.)

May 15, 2019

Program: Health program TBA



News from the Treasurer

It is time to pay dues for 2019-2020

Judy Carey, Treasurer

Happy 2019 to everyone. If you are one of the members who has not paid their state dues for 2018-2019, it is not too late. Just put a check in the mail so I receive it before February 14, 2019.

It is that time again to start thinking about paying your dues for 2019-2020. Starting March 1, 2019 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. I really appreciate all of you paying your dues early.

If you are an Associate Member, which means you were still working when you joined, please let me know when you retire so I can move you to Member status.

If you pay your state dues taken out of your annuity or from your bank account, please consider paying your local dues of \$10.00. We need your local dues to run our organization. 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 it 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. You can always include lunch in the amount.

One more important thing, if you have any changes in your information such as address, phone number, etc., you must notify TRS yourself to change this information. I can change it with TRTA but not TRS.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the February meeting. As always, you can mail your dues to me at **975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019**. For questions, contact me at 972-393-2956 or email judy.carey@verizon.net.

Food (and more!) Drive

Terrie Grimes



Furloughed federal workers. Back pay not yet received. Potential future government shutdown.

You can help. **Metrocrest Services** has already reported that several families impacted by the furloughs have applied for help. Once again, your generous heart is needed.



At our February meeting, we'll be collecting food and household donations as well as monetary contributions. Even though the shutdown has currently ceased, the pantry still needs restocking.

So go to Dollar Tree and grab a few items or rob your piggy bank before this month's meeting. You'll be helping a lot of people in need.

Thank you!



Membership

Wanda Patterson, VP for Membership

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to seeing you all at our February 20th meeting. Please RSVP by February 13th. If you must cancel after the deadline, don't forget to send a check for \$10 to Judy Carey to cover your lunch. If you want to bring your own lunch or just come for the meeting that is perfectly acceptable also.

Please continue to invite any retired educators who have not yet joined TRTA. You might send them a personal invite asking them to attend our February meeting along with 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 District X's drawing for \$100.00, and also entered into C-FB RSPA's drawing (in May) for \$50.00! You will receive one chance for each new member you recruit! Keep inviting your friends. Thank you!



Field Trip March 20

Beth Sargent, Linda Frith, Lee Nicholas, Sharla Lee

Our **Wednesday, March 20** field trip will take us to the Fort Worth **Kimball Museum**. Bernardo Bellotto, one of the world's famous painters, will transport us to the splendor of Eighteenth Century Dredon. He was the court painter for Fedrick Augustus who commissioned Bellotto to document the king's accomplishments of his buildings and architecture. You will also have an opportunity to view the European masterpieces of art and many others.

We will have lunch at Joe T Garcia's.

You can sign up at our next meeting and pay the \$16 for the special exhibit.

If you will not be at the meeting, you can send your check made out to CFB RSPA to Beth Sargent, 1923 Camden Way, Carrollton, 75007. I will then be in touch with you.

Upcoming Field Trips

March 20 2019

Kimball Museum

June 2019 (TBA)

Lavender Farm



A Book a Child Project

Pat Enlow, 2nd VP, Children's Book Project

THANKS to all who made our Children's Book Project, **A Book a Child** Raffle and gift bag collection, a success this year!

The following members won gift cards in the raffle:

\$60 Pilates	Chip Melara
\$60 Ballroom Dance	Elsa Ashley
\$50 Amazon	Wanda Patterson
\$50 Home Depot	Helen Morris
(2) \$15 Target	Becky Bradford
\$25 Chili's +	Becki Tucker
\$25 Amazon	Lora Folsom
\$25 Amazon	Anita Leclaire
\$25 Starbucks	Kathie Johnson
\$25 Olive Garden	Anita Leclaire
\$25 Applebee's	Sally Cramer

A **HUGE** thanks to our contributors: Anonymous, Anonymous, Celeste Craig, Mary Eisenmann, Al & Pat Enlow, and Kay-Lynn Lyon.

This May, we will be delivering approximately 2,500 books to students at the following elementary schools: **McWhorter, Thompson, Stark, and Freeman.**





Legislative News

Pat Enlow, Member TRTA District X Legislative Committee

Please read the latest *The Voice* and all of Tim Lee’s “Inside Lines” at trta.org. This 86th Legislative Session is crucial to the preservation and funding of our TRS **Defined Benefits** Pension Plan and continuation of our TRS-Care. We have some sympathetic legislators and we need to take advantage of this opportunity by **responding to all TRTA Alerts and Calls to Action**.

In December, we visited with **Michelle Beckley**, our elected representative for **House District 65**. We discussed the following:



Health Care: Michelle is a small business owner. Because she cannot provide health insurance for her employees, her main goal is to focus on health insurance. “My legislative team is working on submitting bills.” She is “working for Medicaid expansion.”

TRS Pension/TRS Care: She said she is “definitely in favor of keeping our Defined Benefit. You need that.” Michelle agrees that retired school personnel should not have to lobby for funding every two years and is in favor of permanently funding TRS pension and health care.

Public Education: She attended Carrollton-Farmers Branch schools, Blinn and Brookhaven Community Colleges, and Texas A&M. She has a degree in biomedical sciences. (She says she “is a Democrat Aggie, a rare breed!”) She says she is “totally for public education.” Her focus is on post-secondary education. She feels that not everyone needs to attend college and wants to provide other educational opportunities/training for those who cannot attend college.

Other sources of revenue for pensions, health care, public education that she is in favor of or is considering:

- revenue from legalizing marijuana in Texas (local control)
- revenue from legalizing casino gambling in Texas
- in favor of “discontinuing tax breaks for corporations”
- in favor of “using Rainy Day Funds for shoring up TRS”

She was not familiar with federal issues (Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset). She was not aware of Sen. Ted Cruz’s bill before the US Senate. She was aware that most public school personnel do not get social security.

Michelle considers herself a “Populist Legislator” and says she is “separated from the Democrat Party and not beholden to anyone.”

TRS Retirement Seminar

Kay Justus



A Pre-Retirement Seminar is planned for Saturday, February 16, at 8:30 a.m. at RISD Professional Development Center, 701 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson, Texas 75080. Sign-in begins at 8:00 a.m.

The seminar is a joint venture between Richardson Retired School Personnel, chaired by Jan Casner, and Carrollton-Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association, chaired by Kay Justus. This informative event is free to employees of RISD and CFB ISD. Fifty CFB ISD employees have registered. Registration is now closed.

Representatives from TRS will present TRS benefits and provide comprehensive handouts and forms. Credit Union of Texas is hosting and providing refreshments.

Volunteer Hours

Kay Edmondson



This is a reminder to **count your Volunteer Hours** and email me with your count at 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 to December 31, 2019.

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

Thank you!



Take Care

Linda Bambina
Information & Protective Services

Two helpful tips, the first about your cell phone and the second about grocery pickup/delivery:

1. Beware the area code scam!

“Neighborhood spoofing” is a tactic in which fraudsters show up as a **local number** on your caller ID by matching the first six digits of your number. The report estimates that 9 out of 10 scam calls will come from a familiar area code next year.



By next year it is expected that one half of all phone calls to mobile phones will be fraudulent.

2. Questions to ask before doing grocery pickup or delivery.

- Is there a minimum order?
- Can you pick up your groceries the same day?
- Is there a markup in the price of pickup groceries?
- Do you charge a monthly or yearly subscription fee?
- Do I have to pay by credit or debit card?
- Do you accept manufacturers’ coupons?
- Can you change your order without penalty?
- If an item is not in stock, can you make substitutions?



What is TRTF

Debbie Moss, TRTF Liaison



TRTF, Texas Retired Teachers

Foundation, is the charitable arm of TRTA.

TRTF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing resources and programming that contribute to an enhanced quality of life for retired Texas teachers and school personnel.

TRTF helps educators of the past, present and future by supporting the following charitable programs:

- **Beginning Teacher Scholarships** for first year educators.
- **Classroom Assistance Grants** for current educators to assist with classroom projects.
- **A Helping Hand** for retired school personnel who need financial assistance.
- **The Disaster Relief Fund** which stands ready to provide grants to retired and active educators who are struggling financially after a natural disaster.
- **The Legacy Campaign** to promote a positive image of public education in Texas and provide resources for educators of all generations to connect with one another and learn about TRS.

The Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund has been set up to raise funds, which will be used to fund the *A Helping Hand* program for the foreseeable future.

Your donation means a retiree in need can receive much-needed help to get back on their feet, or a classroom teacher can receive money to fund a unique project or learning platform for their students.

To learn more you may call 800-880-1650, visit www.trtf.org, or see the 3rd Quarter 2018 issue of *The Voice*.



Sunshine

Kathy McWhorter



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

kathymcwhorter@verizon.net

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