



C-FB RSPA

Carrollton-Farmers Branch Retired School Personnel Association

Summer 2019



From the President's Pen

Della Swaim

Hello, everyone, I hope you are having a good summer! Many of our members do not realize that in the past we only published newsletters during the months when we held our 6 meetings of the year. (Sept., Oct., Dec., Feb., Apr., and May) **I kept hearing last summer from members who asked what had happened to us because they had not heard from us for so long!** So, we decided to publish our first ever summer newsletter. Many of you seemed to appreciate hearing from us, so we (your C-FB RSPA Executive Board) decided to publish another summer newsletter this year. Let us know what you think! You will not receive another one of our newsletters until September.

At our Executive Board meeting in June we decided to host new CFB retirees at a gathering in August to congratulate them and to invite them to become C-FB RSPA members. **If you have the name and/or contact information of someone who needs to be invited to this gathering, please let us know.**

We also have been invited to have a table at the CFB Learn More Achieve More Professional Development Conference on August 7-9 to communicate with active educators. We will be seeking volunteers to help with this.

With the Texas Legislature meeting this year, there has been much news for retired educators coming out of Austin. If you have been reading [THE VOICE](#), your state [TRTA newsletter](#), you know that most of this news has been good for TRS retirees! Please read the legislative article to learn the details of what the Legislature did.

I feel that our public officials have responded so positively to TRS Retiree issues because our TRTA members became very engaged in the mid-term elections last year.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING, CONTACTING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES, AND MAINTAINING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TRTA!

Please consider contacting [Judy Carey](#), our Treasurer and becoming a DIAMOND PLUS Member of TRTA. This just means that your state TRTA dues are deducted from your annuity check each month and your membership will not lapse. You will still owe your \$10 local dues.

Thank you!

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE, AND YOU ARE VALUED BY C-FB RSPA!

2019-2020 Programs

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



I would like to thank all who filled out the 2019 RSPA Survey and contributed program ideas for 2019-2020. This helps me to stay on track with your interests so that I can provide programs that have meaning for you. **You can email me with program ideas at any time!** One TRTA requirement each year is a program related to health. I am working on that one now. Following are programs (and potential programs). There are so many possibilities and only 6 meetings!

September 18, 2019

Jackie Payne – The Stories Behind the Songs

October 16, 2019

TRTA Legislative Update

December 11, 2019

Dr. Chapman: The State of C-FBISD with entertainment provided by C-FBISD students

February 19, 2020

Candidate Forum

April 15, 2020

(I'm working on another program telling about the history of our area)

May 20, 2020

(I'm working on our health program)



Our Officers for 2019-2021

President: Della Swaim
1st Vice President, Membership: Lori Smith
2nd Vice President, Programs: Pat Enlow
Treasurer: Judy Carey
Secretary: Darcy Perreault



Field Trips

Beth Sargent, Lee Nitcholas, Stefani Johnson

2019-2020 Field Trips!

September TBA

Texas Center for Proton Therapy, Irving

November 11 (Monday)

Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture

December 6 (Friday)

Community Nativity Exhibit at the
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Carrollton

January 9 (Thursday)

Board Game Day, at the
Webb Chapel Church of Christ, Farmers Branch

April / May TBA

Globe Life Park of Arlington tour

June 3 (Wednesday)

Ham Orchard, Terrell



Our June field trip to Prayer Lavender Garden.

More photos here:

<http://www.localunits.org/CFBRSPA/index.cfm/photos/2018-2019-sights/>



Membership

Lori Smith, VP for Membership

THANK YOU for being a member of C-FB RSPA! It takes a village to raise a child but it also takes a group like this to make our retirement informative and enjoyable!

We want to share our association with our friends and family. If you have a friend who recently retired or is considering retirement in the next few years, please invite them to come to our **Ice Cream Social on August 27th** and/or to our first meeting on **September 18th**. You can send me their name and I will try to contact them (Lbs5619@gmail.com).

I look forward to sharing a fun-filled year with each of you and thank God for bringing me into such a supportive group.

Did you know spouses and friends can join too as community (associate) members? Help us grow our membership this year!

Welcome to our New Member!

David Magnus

Healthy Living

Carol Sprawls



Tip for Eating Healthy this Summer:

Consider the color of foods you choose each day. Foods with rich colors are more than just nice to look at, they are also packed with nutrients and antioxidants that bind the damaging free radicals in your body, thus lowering inflammation. Eating 2 cups of colorful fruits and 2 ½ cups of colorful vegetables each day is a healthy nutrition plan. **THINK COLORFUL** when making food choices.

A Little Humor for the Day: A senior citizen was driving down the freeway when his cell phone rang. When he answered he heard his wife's urgent voice warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!"

"OH MY!" said Herman. It's not just ONE car. It's hundreds of "em."



Legislative Report

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

Good News!

The 86th Legislature has come to a close with some good news for retired school personnel:

HB 500 appropriated \$1.113 billion from the Rainy Day Fund and SB 12 (passed on the very last day of voting):

- ⇒ Provides a supplemental (13th) check to all who retired by August 31, 2018, in the amount of your monthly annuity, not to exceed \$2000. I have not seen a specific date, but TRS has indicated it will be delivered in the fall.
- ⇒ Makes our TRS Fund actuarially sound paving the way for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to be considered by the 87th Legislature.

There will be no increases in our TRS-Care premiums.

YOU were a part of this outcome. It DOES help when each of us participates in the Action Alerts, contacts/visits our legislators, and holds our legislators accountable with questions and clarifications. WE DID RAISE THE BASE!

Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

On a national level, Tim Lee has been working with a Massachusetts retired public employees group to repeal the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which affects school personnel in 14 states.

In Texas, 95% of public school employees do not pay into Social Security through their public school jobs, but many supplement their income with jobs in which they do contribute to Social Security. WEP eliminates the "windfall" of those who receive both a pension and Social Security by reducing Social Security benefits!

U.S. Representative Richard Neal (D-Mass.) plans to introduce his WEP bill this summer. (Our own U.S. Congressman Kenny Marchant is up for re-election!)

March 3 Primary Elections



Hear ye! Hear ye! 2020 is a VERY important year! On **March 3, 2020**, we have the opportunity to determine our future by participating in the **Primary Elections**. Primary results

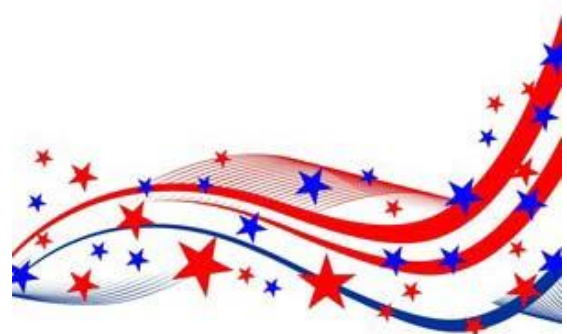
are even more important than the **General Election (November 3, 2020)**, because the Primary determines our choices!

Since TRTA and C-FB RSPA are organizations dedicated to legislative issues, it is SO important for you to know about the candidates so that you can use your vote wisely to make informed decisions.

February 19 Candidates Forum

Mark your calendar and plan to *attend our February 19 meeting which will be our 2nd Candidates Forum!* As you hear of candidates filing, please let me know who they are. With 30+ people representing our membership, I need your help! (Rumor has it that we may see some familiar names resurfacing in our area!)

We had a fantastic turnout of volunteers who helped with the first Forum and **we will need volunteers once again to make our Forum a success!**



Children's Book Project:

A Book a Child



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

Thank you!

Thank you to all who volunteered to deliver 2,478 books to students at McWhorter, Thompson, Freeman, and Stark elementary schools on May 23: Della Swaim, Kathy McWhorter, Wanda Patterson, Linda Tole, Lori McCall, Beth Sargent, Gail Hartin, Angie Johnson, Sharla Lee, Aline Hill, Jody Williams, Jane Henry, Marilyn Paa, and Cynthia Sigman. This program just wouldn't be possible without these wonderful members contributing their time and effort. (*Hint*: We are going to make a huge delivery in 2020 and we are going to need even more volunteers!)



I determine schools, make contact with the principals, and schedule delivery, but of course, **Gail Schwamb** is the one who makes this all work. How could we deliver books without them being ordered, stored, having bookplates put in them, and boxed for delivery? **You rock, Gail!**

Please join us in celebrating THE CIVIC LEAGUE who have again given C-FB RSPA a generous grant of \$2,500 for our children's book project! THANK YOU!



Also, the Farmers Branch Woman's Club will partner with C-FB RSPA by soliciting individual contributions from their members for our A Book a Child project this next school year.



If you know anyone who is a member of either one of these organizations, please express our thanks to them!

2019 Children's Book Project Delivery

A Book a Child

2,478 books delivered!



Freeman Elementary



Thompson Elementary



Stark Elementary



McWhorter Elementary

Our 2019-2020 Goals

The following are the goals we have set for 2019-2020 and our plans for implementing them.

- **Growth-** We attended our school district Retiree Dinner in May and recorded personal contact information so that we can invite retirees to our September meeting. We are planning an ice cream social in a CFBISD facility on August 27th for new retirees and our C-FB RSPA Executive Board. We want to inform new retirees about the process of joining RSPA, such as price, share about local dues and give information about what we do such as tentative list of program topics and field trips. We requested an open records list of all C-FBISD retirees for the past few months and have contacted them at their school district email addresses requesting their personal contact information. We put note cards on our lunch tables at our May meeting and asked members to give us the names and contact information for their friends and acquaintances who were retiring. (This turned out surprisingly well, and we got a good list of new prospects for our organization!) We will attend the CFBISD Professional Development Seminar for three days in August to recruit and connect with active educators. In February, we will recruit new members at our annual Retirement Seminar. We have added a new position, Publicity Chairperson, on our Executive Board this summer.
- **Political Awareness-** We will contact our members and ask them to respond to each "Call to Action" issued by the State and District 10 Legislative Chairs and through Tim Lee's INSIDE LINE.. We will have at least one program each year that is designed to inform our members about Legislative issues. Our 2nd VP, Pat Enlow, or our Legislative Co-Chair, Nichie Hoskins, will give Legislative updates at each meeting and in each of our seven newsletters. We are planning to hold our second Candidates' Forum at our February C-FB RSPA meeting. We will visit Legislators and invite members to visit and/or contact legislators with questions or for clarification of issues.
- **Membership Engagement-**We have made an effort to involve new retirees in the leadership of our organization. Two of our new officers are recent retirees and new members of C-FB RSPA Executive Board, and we have recruited new members to participate on our committees. We used a "Member Survey" to ask members of which committee they wish to be a part, and use that information to recruit for committees. Our Program Chair and our Field Trip Chairs use the information from our member survey to plan high interest, stimulating programs and field trips. Our Newsletters (7) are posted online and are "works of art"! They are always informative and upbeat. We serve great food at our luncheons!



News from the Treasurer

Judy Carey, Treasurer

A big thank you to those who have paid their dues for 2019-2020!

The TRTA contest ended June 30 for our local unit to win one of five prizes of \$750. We won't know if we won until the end of July.

Some of you have only paid your state dues; if that is you, please consider sending me your local dues of \$10. Local dues are the only income that we have to run C-FB RSPA.

Some of you might have received an email from TRTA that your dues need to be paid. Please take a moment to look at your checkbook to see if you have paid them. You can also send me an email (judy.carey@verizon.net) or call me (972-393-2956) to see if I have received them.

Mail payments to me at: 975 Laguna Drive, Coppell, TX 75019. Make out the check to C-FB RSPA in the amount of \$45 (\$35 for state and \$10 for local).

Hope everyone is having a relaxing summer and doing something fun. See you in September, hopefully with cooler weather.

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!

