

MARSP

Newsletter

APRIL, 2010

www.midlandretireded.org



April 1, 2010
MARSP
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704

JOIN US FOR THE APRIL MEETING!

NAVIGATING THE MEDICAL MAZE

SPEAKER—DR. STEVEN BROWN



- ▶ Thursday, April 1, 2010 - **First Baptist Church**
- ▶ 11:30 Meet and greet
- ▶ 12:00 noon - Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **12:30 Program and business**

Make a **prompt** reservation for you and your guests by email or telephone. A reservation for a meal is a commitment to make payment of **\$5.00**, even if you cannot attend.

Call Anita Patton at **432- 697-1602** or e-mail her at **apatton123@sbcglobal.net** by **Monday, March 29**, for reservations.

New Scholarship Revisions



The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel (MARSP) will award a \$1000.00 scholarship for the 2010-2011 school year. The recipient must be sponsored by a MARSP member who is a relative or a mentor. The recipient must be pursuing an undergraduate or masters degree in education or educational certification at a Texas university or college. Students may download this information and application from the MARSP website: www.midlandretireded.org. All applications must be postmarked by Friday, June 11, 2010. Applications postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.

GPO-WEP WASHINGTON SUMMIT REPORT

by Maridell Fryar

You would have been very proud to be a member of TRTA/MARSP if you could have been with me and the other TRTA officers and Tim Lee, our Executive Director, in Washington, DC on March 10 and 11. Our reason for being there was to attend a GPO/WEP Summit hosted by TRTA. Eighteen different associations representing eight states participated, including representatives from TCTA and ATPE! This summit was the first-ever coordinated effort to work on some kind of legislative relief from the penalties these two laws impose on retirees in fourteen states.

Presenters at the two-day summit, held in a meeting room at the U.S. Capitol, included national and state associations advocating for GPO/WEP reform, as well as three members of Congress (Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, and Rep. Aaron Schock of Illinois) and a staffer for Rep. Howard Berman of California. Hutchison and Brady have filed bills (H.R. 1221/S. 491) to revise the calculation of the WEP, and Berman has filed legislation to completely repeal both the GPO and WEP (H.R. 235). Staff members from the Social Security Administration and the Government Accountability Office were also on hand to provide background information and statistics on the entitlement program and the impact of the two offsets.

In addition to the formal **continued on Page 2)**



ENROLL NOW FOR 2010 - 2011!!

Now is the time to mail your \$40.00 dues check to MARSP. Nearly half of last year's members have rejoined, and the rest need to mail dues today. You will be eligible for **PRIZES** at the MAY MEETING if MARSP receives your form with payment postmarked by May 1, 2010. (YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!)



NO OTHER ENTITY SOLELY WORKS FOR YOU IN AUSTIN AND SPEAKS FOR YOU IN WASHINGTON. Please join to help us become a stronger voice for retired personnel in Midland, in Texas, and in the USA.

Book Project Begins Anew



The process of collecting books for all ages began again in January. Now start collecting and donating for 2010. Our Maridell Fryar still holds her state office where this project is huge, so **ATTEND THOSE GARAGE SALES AND CLEAN OUT THOSE BOOKSHELVES. Bring the books to the next meeting.**

MARSP LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES - March 4, 2010



The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met on Thursday, March 4, 2010, at the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. President Ann Parish called the meeting to order at 12:25.

Leonard Boyd gave the invocation and led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. Orin Wade was thanked by President Parish for providing piano music during lunch. Anita Patton, Mary Jo Boyd and Kay Martin were thanked for the table decorations. President Parish welcomed several husbands to the meeting.

Martha Kallus introduced Gregg Ulvestad who gave a program on Wind Farms.

NEW BUSINESS

President Parish reported a deposit of \$4000 was made recently for membership renewals. She encouraged all members present to renew their membership by May 1 to be eligible for door prizes at the May meeting.

There were no corrections to the minutes, so they were accepted and filed.

President Parish introduced new member Dorothy Ellis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Parish announced that those members attending the state convention in Arlington, April 13-15 include Maridell Fryar, Ann Parish, Martha Kallus, Dorothy Thompson, Karron Pearson, Ann Dixon, Patti Watson, and Pat Adams.

President Parish announced that Midland Freshman had made a large donation of books to MARSP and reminded members to continue donating books.

The April program will be Dr. Stephen Brown, Cardiologist. His program is entitled, "Navigating the Medical Maze."

(continued from Page 1) presentations, TRTA officers met with their own representatives and I had a fruitful meeting with Rep. Mike Conaway in his office. He is one of the co-sponsors of H. R. 1221. However, he, like the rest of the congressmen with whom we visited, does not feel that anything will happen on this until the health care issues are resolved. We learned that the bill cannot come out of committee until called for by the Speaker of the House. Every Congressional member we talked with agreed that the GPO/WEP are the two issues that they receive the most constituent calls/letters/emails about when discussing Social Security.

In the final afternoon of the Summit, participants talked about the next steps the organizations should take. They decided that there was a need for solid data on just how many individuals are penalized and to what extent. They expressed an interest in surveying their organizations' members to find out how many people are affected by the GPO, WEP or both. TRTA will draft the survey, publish it in the next issue of The Voice and provide it to all other summit participants for their use as well. This survey will help identify the hundreds of thousands of public education and other public employee retirees around the country that are affected by the GPO/WEP.

The bottom line on the GPO/WEP Summit is that the meeting helped give the participants clarity about how Congressional members perceive this issue. While no solution will come easily and it may not result in everything we may hope to achieve, dealing with the GPO/WEP in a way that helps restore your Social Security benefits is possible. TRTA will do all it can to help advance these efforts as quickly as possible and this Summit helped build a coalition of other associations which are now going to join in that effort.

Health Corner—Rx For a Broken Toe

Even minor fractures can shed bone fragments that cause persistent irritation. A greater risk is that the toe will heal in a "misaligned" position, causing arthritis or balance problems later. Toe fractures should always be seen by a podiatrist or orthopedic specialist. Fast treatment helps ensure that the bone heals quickly and in the normal position. If the toe is black and blue, it's almost certainly broken. (Johanna Youner, DPM)

Benefit of the Month

Drury Inn & Suites

800-378-7946 www.druryhotels.com
Receive 5% off Drury's corporate rates at the more than 100 Drury Inn & Suites in 19 states. Use the ID 311435 by phone or ID 311435 online.



TRTA State Convention April 13-15

The eight members from MARSP listed in the minutes will be attending the state convention in April. Those members include one state officer, one state committee chairman, one district officer, and five local delegates. Please thank these members for their commitment to MARSP, District 18, and TRTA.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Because Dorothy Thompson will be the MARSP President next year, she cannot continue to do the newsletter. If you are willing to assist the organization in this most important service, please contact Dorothy by phone or email.

Volunteer Hours ■ March 2010

Name: _____

Number of Hours: _____

Walking Steps ■ March 2010

Name: _____

Number of Steps: _____