

MARSP NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2008

Landscaping Plants

Presented by Russell Johnson, La Casa Verde Nursery

Thursday, March 6...First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

11:30 - Meet and Greet, 12 Noon - Lunch, 12:30 - Program and Business

Chris Cox, new AMBA representative for the area will be on hand to answer questions and discuss services.

Lunch \$4. Be sure to give an accurate and prompt reservation by email or telephone.

A reservation for the meal is a commitment to make payment if not in attendance.

Call Yvonne Black @ 682-1858 for changes in reservations.

TRTA State Convention: April 15, 16 and 17 in El Paso. Maridell is running for TRTA 2nd VP. Bring some spare change to our next meeting; we'll be passing the hat to help Maridell defray campaign expenses!

TIME TO ENROLL FOR THE 2008-2009 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The enrollment period for 2008-2009 begins March 1. Please JOIN NOW by marking the enclosed membership form and returning it with a check in the provided envelope, or bring your check to the meeting. Your prompt response saves MARSP postage/supply costs (and time) by eliminating the need for repeated reminders. With your help, association funds and manpower can be used to provide more services. Like last year, please note our incentives to join early. All who have joined with a postmark deadline of April 25 will be eligible to receive one of several quality door prizes at the May meeting and will NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN. Also, continue to recruit new members. Forms of new members returned with payment will be placed in a drawing done during fall 2008. Both the winner and recruiting member will have their membership dues reimbursed, and neither must be present to win. Current developments in Austin and Washington to help retirees are the primary reason for **MEMBERSHIP!!** Fun, food, fantastic programs, and fellowship with former colleagues are also compelling

TRTA 81ST LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY SURVEY

The TRTA Priorities Surveys were completed at the last meeting of MARSP by those in attendance. The priorities survey gives grassroots information to the legislative committee for working at the next legislative session. Priorities formulated from the survey at the meeting are listed in the order of preference; pension increase, creating a permanent TRS-Care Fund, protecting the fund, and giving representation on the TRS board to TRS annuitants.

If you didn't participate and would like to do so, the surveys are located on the TRTA website at www.trta.org. Please let your voice be heard. Follow all the latest developments with legislation, including the WEP and GPO by subscribing to the **Inside Line**, an email newsletter from TRTA that arrives as events take place or news is received. Subscribing may be done at the TRTA web site. Even though the legislature is not in session, committees are working on various ideas and it is important to be informed and react. This will provide up-to-date information and let you know when action needs to be taken.

Our Sympathy to the Family and Friends with the Loss of Former Colleagues Frances Ponder and Katherine Koonce

Remember those with health concerns, including David Adams. Also, remember those that are in assisted living, nursing homes or in their own homes and unable to participate.

Please report the need for acknowledgements of illness, death or caring concerns to

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR FEBRUARY, 2008 CONSIDERED EXCELLENT SERVICE TO ACTIVE EDUCATORS

For the last six years, MARSP has worked with District 18 in presenting the pre-retirement seminar to active educators at Abell Jr. High. TRTA units and all school districts in Region 18 ESC were notified about the seminar and response from all of West Texas was gratifying. Speakers included Mary Lou Cassidy talking about the importance of having your legal affairs in order, whether you're at retirement or not; an investment counselor; the AMBA insurance representative with information about the dental, vision and other supplemental insurance programs endorsed by TRTA; and the most important source of information, the TRS Benefit Counselor. MISD, local businesses, credit unions and banks were generous in assisting with covering the cost. Responses from attendees were very positive about this opportunity. The committee is grateful for all the help received from MARSP members and others in working to make this a very successful project. Pass the word along to active educators and they can keep this in mind for next time year's event.



CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

A pilot project is planned for next month's newsletter. MARSP's newsletters are currently posted on the web site at www.midlandretireded.org. Next month, when it is posted, an email with the link will be sent to all members on Yvonne Black's email reservation list and they will receive their newsletters electronically. This idea came after reviewing the budget and considering the rising cost of postage and printing for the newsletter. If the feedback from this pilot is favorable, then MARSP's board will consider using this method for next year. There would be an option and sign-up procedure. To maintain the bulk rate postage, MARSP is obligated to mail at least 200, but we have over 300 members, so we could use this for over 100 members for an estimated savings of up to \$500 a year.

HEALTH NEWS: The online prescription renewal service with CareMark offers a variety of services that are worthwhile. CareMark sends notification of when medications are up for renewal and their web site is user friendly. They also offer opportunities for users to subscribe to the latest information on various health topics. Those using the services have found the various news bulletins to be up-to-date and informative. Try their web site at www.caremark.com.

MARSP Luncheon Meeting Minutes -- February 7, 2008

The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met on Thursday, February 7, 2008, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. President Maridell Fryar called the meeting to order at 12:27.

President Fryar called on Bob Watkins to give the invocation and Leonard Boyd to lead us in the pledges to the American and Texas flags. She recognized guests and new member Faye Littlejohn.

The minutes for both the December and January meetings were printed in the newsletter. President Fryar asked for a motion to approve both sets of minutes.. Raymond Painter so moved, and Sharon Welch seconded, and the motion passed. Copies of the treasurer's report were on the table; no questions were asked, and the report will be filed as presented

President Fryar recognized Ann Andrews, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and her committee members, Sharon Welch and Yvonne Black. She then introduced the proposed slate of officers for 2008-09 as follows:

President – Ann Parish

1st Vice-President – Mike and Kathy Landrum

2nd Vice-President – Pat Adams

Secretary – Nancy Doss

Treasurer – Natalie Eustace

President Fryar called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to elect the slate by acclamation. The motion was made by Leonard Boyd, seconded by Bob Watkins, and the slate was voted in unanimously.

President Fryar called on Pat Adams, who introduced Daria McClung, who presented a talk about Nine Things Women Should Know About Heart Disease. Pat presented a certificate of recognition to Daria, and money was donated to the scholarship fund in her name.

Announcements:

- Yvonne Black announced that we had 91 members in attendance today.
- Raymond Painter reported the total number of volunteers and volunteer hours and compared each number to last year's. He then drew for a free lunch for a volunteer who had reported hours today. Roland and Nancy Moreland won.
- Martha Kallus asked for volunteers to help with the Bush Childhood Home, since school children will be taking tours over the next few months. There is a blue sign-up sheet.
- The Pre-Retirement Seminar will be on February 9 at Abell.
- The TRTA Convention will be in April in El Paso. All members are encouraged to go. We will have five delegates in attendance.
- Dave Kleinbeck handed out paper copies of the TRTA Legislative Survey, explaining that people could also take it online or get a copy a copy from *The Voice* newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17

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<p>Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOLUNTEER HOURS - February, 2008</p> <p>Number of Hours: _____</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WALKING STEPS - February, 2009</p> <p>Number of Steps: _____</p>
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