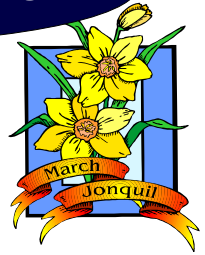


MARSP

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

www.midlandretireded.org



March 4, 2010
MARSP
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704

JOIN US FOR THE MARCH MEETING!



WIND FARMS



GREG ULVESTAD, PRESENTER

- ▶ Thursday, March 4, 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 1**, for reservations.

Scholarship



Please continue placing your donations for the Scholarship Fund into our bags on the tables at each meeting. If you have not yet given your \$5 for the semester, please give it in March.

Communication IS Key!



Pat Adams, 697-3339, communicates with MARSP members by card when they are sick or need emotional support from MARSP. Please call her with concerns about members you know who should receive a card.



You Ate My Lunch!...by Ann Parish

Every month we ask our members to make reservations when they plan to eat lunch, rather than just showing up unannounced.

Some members think that since it's just one person, it won't matter. Other people think that calling on Tuesday or Wednesday, after we've turned our count in, won't matter, either.

Last month, we had five people who showed up without reservations, paid their money, got in line, and ate lunch. Unfortunately, we had five other people who did make reservations and showed up to pay their money, get at the end of the line, and eat lunch. There was no more food. They didn't get lunch.

We are not the only ones who eat lunch at First Baptist on Thursdays, but we are the largest group. When Valerie serves a casserole of some kind, she may be able to stretch it at the end. But last month we had individual pieces of chicken, and when she ran out, she ran out.

So folks, please play fair. Make a reservation if you plan to eat. If you want to show up without a reservation, wait until the end of the line, and see if there's enough food for you. Don't eat the lunches that belong to people who made reservations!

MEMBERSHIP:

ENROLL NOW FOR NEXT YEAR!!



Now is the time to mail your check because **CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS END JUNE 30, 2010**. 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!) Please send your dues now to reduce MARSP costs for reminder notices! Also help the association gain new members to increase its influence with state and national legislators when encouraging them to enact measures such as the Social Security Fairness Act and legislation that will come before the Texas Legislature in 2011 to make actuarially sound funding for the TRS a reality.



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 Continues to Grow

The revised story is that MARSP collected and dispersed **1,477 books in 2009**. Another 37 books were located which had been donated last year. 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 BOOK-SHELVES. Bring the books to the next meeting.**

MARSP LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES - February 4, 2010



The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met on Thursday, February 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 the luncheon. Jennifer Cooper and Cheba Bianchi were thanked for the Valentine table decorations. The program this month was a display by various members showing their collections, hobbies and talents. All members could visit the displays before lunch and following the business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Martha Kallus presented a slate of officers for 2010-2011. They included Dorothy Thompson, President; Mike and Kathy Landrum, First Vice-Presidents, Pat Adams, Second Vice-President; Gloria Grunenwald, Secretary; and Natalie Eustace, Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the floor. Leonard Boyd moved to accept the nominations by acclamation. Maridell Fryar seconded. Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Parish reminded the membership that it is time to contribute to the scholarship fund again. Donations may be made in memory or in honor of someone. She also reminded members to bring book donations. Board members were asked to come to Abell Jr. High, Friday February 5, to stuff packets for the Pre-Retirement Seminar. Also, those who could come on Saturday to help at the seminar were encouraged to do so.

Members were encouraged to notify Pat Adams of any members who are in need of a card for illnesses, sympathy, etc.

First Vice-President Mike Landrum announced that the new membership drive begins March 1. The next newsletter will contain the 2010-11 MARSP Membership Form.

Nancy Young displayed free calendars for those members wishing to record their volunteer hours. Winners of a free lunch were David Kleinbeck for hours and Jean Alvey for steps.

The 2010 U.S. Census: What You Need to Know

The U.S. Census is a very important, yet simple process that each household must participate in every ten years. Completing the Census ensures that our communities will receive adequate federal funds for things like hospitals, schools, senior centers, job training centers, emergency services and public works projects.

The 2010 Census Timeline is as follows:

March 2010: A census form is mailed or delivered to households. ****It has only 10 questions**** and **will not** ask for social security numbers, financial information or even legal status as a U.S. resident or citizen. The form **will only** be available by mail or by the census takers.

April 1, 2010: National Census Day—use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail.

April – July 2010: Census takers, **with badges**, visit households that did not return a form by mail. **NO** questions that are not on the census form will be asked and they **will not** ask to come inside a home, or contact people by e-mail or phone. (The only time someone will be contacted by phone is if something was missing or incomprehensible on the form.)

December 2010: By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment.

March 2011: By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redirecting data to states.

Job Opportunities

If you are interested in becoming a Census taker, please contact: Midland Census Bureau, West Highway 80, Midland, TX 79705, Phone: 432-262-4730. Census takers start at: \$13.25 per hour.



Health Corner

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE. Laughter's health benefits are no joke. Laughter can do the following:

- Stimulate your organs by enhancing your intake of oxygen-rich air and increasing endorphins released by the brain.
- Activate and relieve your stress response, resulting in a good, relaxed feeling.
- Soothe tension and stomachs.
- Improve your immune system by increasing neuropeptides that help fight stress and potentially more serious illnesses.
- Relieve pain. **Buy a joke book and start laughing.**



Volunteer Hours

2009 Volunteers with over 1,000 hours include the following:

Kay Martin	3400	Natalie Eustace	2121
Francine Weaver	2880	Mike Landrum	1980
Bob Cornell	2524	Deanna Dunn	1680
Maridell Fryar	2200	Kathy Landrum	1350
Jan Artley	2200	Sharon Welch	1120

Benefit of the Month

Ameritas Group Dental Insurance-www.trtabenefits.com - 800-258-7041. Benefits plus a rate guarantee until July 31, 2010.

TRTA members interested in email updates on issues pertaining to pension, health insurance, Social Security, and other hot topics should sign up for **Inside Line**. This email update is written by Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, and offers fact and opinion on the issues facing current and future education retirees. **To enroll** in this free service, go to TRTA's website, <http://www.trta.org>, and click the words "Inside Line."

Volunteer Hours ▪ Feb. 2010

Name: _____

Number of Hours: _____

Walking Steps ▪ Feb. 2010

Name: _____

Number of Steps: _____