

# MARSP Newsletter

March, 2014

[www.midlandretireded.org](http://www.midlandretireded.org)

March 6, 2014  
MARSP  
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704



## MARSP LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2014



The regular meeting of the Midland Association of Retired School Personnel was held on February 6, 2014, at 11:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church, President Nancy Young presiding. The invocation and pledge were given by Mike Landrum. Lunch was provided by Valerie Watkins and her staff at First Baptist Church. Table decorations were provided by Karen Burden and Nancy Stewart.

After welcoming all members and guests, President Nancy Young introduced Sharon Welch. Sharon then introduced the guest speaker, Jimmy Patterson. Mr. Patterson gave several excerpts from his book, A HISTORY OF CHARACTER: THE STORY OF MIDLAND, TEXAS. The book will be available in the summer of 2014. Mr. Patterson also talked about working with Midlanders such as Jim Henry and Judge Hyde.

### Business Meeting

Nancy Young reminded members that the TRTA Convention is scheduled for April 13-15, 2014, in Arlington, Texas. The fourth quarter 2013 Voice has information regarding registration fees and registration forms for tours.

Nancy announced that Tessa Duvall is the new Education Reporter at MRT. She also thanked Sharon Welch for sending information to the paper regarding the announcement of our meetings.

Members were encouraged to read information about voting that was sent out by Tim Lee.

### Committee Reports

Nancy Doss, Anita Patton, and Jean Alvey from the nominating committee announced the following officer nominations for the 2014-2015 year. Treasurer – Mary Smith and Donna Byerlotzer; Secretary – Karen Burden; Second Vice-President-Sheila Morrow and Linda Buzan; Second Vice-President – Michele Harmon and Kerry Kay Cook; President – Nancy Young.

Jean Alvey introduced new members and then informed members that dues will be \$50 for the 2014-2015 membership year. The membership drive will begin in March. There will be a new plan for paying dues and members will have the option of paying state and local dues separately. More information and forms will be included in the next newsletter.

Pat Adams thanked Sharon Welch for helping to coordinate today's program with Jimmy Patterson. The guest speaker for the March meeting will be Leslie Slaughter, a glass maker.

There were no additions or corrections for the January minutes so they were approved as printed. Copies of the treasurer's report were on the tables for members to review. There were no questions, so the report will be filed for audit.

Patti Watson recognized February birthdays.

*(continue on page 2)*

## Please Come to the March Meeting

Don't forget to put Thursday, **March 6** on your calendar. This is the date for the next meeting of MARSP. The guest speaker will be Leslie Slaughter, a local artist, who will present the program entitled "Art Glass Creations." She is a glass blower and will have some of her creations for display as well as some for sale. Meet and greet begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The cost is **\$5.00**, and your reservation is your commitment to pay, even if you cannot attend. The program will begin at 12:30 p.m.

**Call Anita Patton at 432-697-1602 or e-mail her at [apatton123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apatton123@sbcglobal.net) by Monday, March 3.**

If you cannot join us for lunch but would like to attend the program, you need not make a reservation.

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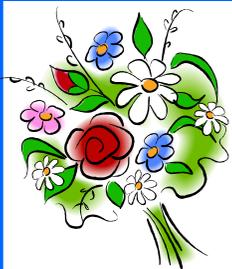
Pat Adams requested that members please bring books for the book project.

Names were drawn for door prizes. The winner for the health/exercise drawing was Gail Wacker. The winner for the volunteer hours was Betty Bagwell.

Nancy Young informed members that Joe Willis, a MARSP member, has written a book about teaching that will be coming out in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Karen Burden, Secretary



**~A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT~**

Our meeting in February was very interesting with Jimmy Patterson sharing the “History of Midland.” It was nice to have several men attend to join us for lunch and to hear Jimmy. We look forward to another great program in March with Leslie Slaughter presenting “Art Glass Creations.” Of course it is always wonderful when we can all be together and visit... even if it is snowing outside!!

There were 4,679 books delivered in 2013 for our Children’s Book Project. Pat Adams and those who help her have done an excellent job getting these books to the different locations where children can have hands-on seeing and reading books.

Volunteer hours turned in for 2013 totaled to 80,799. We will continue to count our hours. Anything members do that they are not paid for is volunteering. Please count those hours that can be turned in monthly or keep track of them and report to Jennifer Cooper at the end of the year. As of yet the dollar amount these hours represent has not been received, but will be announced when they are. It is amazing what the dollar amount will be for the 80,799 hours. Great job!!!

Remember the TRTA convention April 13-15 in Arlington, Texas. Information is in *The Voice* and pre-registration deadline is March 28. Please contact Nancy Young if you are interested in attending.

March is our membership “kick off” month. You are receiving membership information in your March Newsletter packet. Jean Alvey will have information at our March meeting. Invite retired friends who have not been members this year and encourage them to join us. There is “power in numbers” and we hope to have our present members renew and build our membership for the coming year with new members.

Valentine’s Day has come and gone, but I hope your day was fun and happy and that your year is full of sweet surprises.

Blessings,  
Nancy Young



**KEEPING YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR**

Old age isn't for sissies, or for those without a sense of humor. That's probably why there are so many senior jokes out there. Laughter may not help you find your keys, but it's nice to know you're not alone. Take a look at some favorites from Geoff Tibballs' newest book Unforgettable Senior Jokes.

*A 61-year-old man told the doctor that he was no longer able to help around the house like he used to. After the doctor had finished examining him, the man said, 'Now doc, tell me in plain English what is wrong with me.' 'In plain English,' said the doctor, 'you're lazy.' 'Ok,' said the man, 'now give me the medical term so I can tell my wife.'*  
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*An older couple has invited another older couple over for dinner. While the women are in the kitchen the men are talking. One man says he and his wife are always looking for good restaurants. The other man replies that he and his wife just ate in a good restaurant last week. "What was the name of it?" asks the man. "Oh, gosh, let's see..um..what's the name of that flower that's red and has thorns?" "A rose?" "Yes that's it! ROSE! What's the name of that restaurant we ate at last week?"*  
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*Two old men were talking about their distant youth. One said, "Can you remember the name of the first woman you ever kissed? His friend answered, "I can't even remember the name of the last one!!!"*

*Remember, laughter is the best medicine.*

*Karron Pearson, Healthcare*

**Volunteer Hours - February 2014**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Walking Steps - February 2014**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Steps:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**



More than fifty people showed up for the February meeting in spite of the snow on the ground and some still flying around. We had a nice hot lunch provided by First Baptist and a wonderful program by Jimmy Patterson on the history of Midland. It is always fun to see the people you taught with and new friends you have made in MARSP. Where else can you go for such a bargain?

We, the TRTA members, are proud of ourselves for our accomplishment last summer with the legislature. Many of us got our first raise since 2001. If you didn't get a raise from it, rest assured that Tim Lee and all of TRTA will be fighting for yours too. But we can't rest even then. According to Tim the health care plan will have a serious funding shortfall of \$1 billion in the coming legislative session. He says we have to get TRS retirees and future retirees together to help us keep this vital health care coverage!

Included with this newsletter you will find a blue membership form. Dues this year are \$50 for state and local together. If there is a special condition with your membership it will be stated on your membership form, thanks to the expertise of Mike Landrum. If you have a question please call Jean Alvey at 889-1705. You may mail your membership using the enclosed envelope or bring it to the March meeting.

If you are interested in the Diamond Plus option you will find information on the state website or you can pick up a form at the March meeting.

TRTA accomplishes all these things only because of its membership. We are all enjoying improvements made by this organization. Ask yourself if you are doing your part to help yourself and your fellow retirees. Joining your local and state organization is a good first step!

Jean Alvey, Membership

**NEED A LITTLE EXTRA INCOME?**



Lauren Moreno, owner of the Midland Early Learning Academy, is seeking a school teacher to work in her preschool. The school is located at 1121 Andrews Highway. If you are interested, please call Lauren Moreno at 432-238-2304.



*By Tim Lee*

**Go to <http://www.trta.org> and click the Inside Line icon like the one above. Then follow the directions.**

**The TRTA Call Your Legislator Hotline:  
1-888-674-3788**

**TRTA Legislative Hotline:  
1-877-880-1651**

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\* THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE \*  
\* AREN'T THINGS!! \*  
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**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**



The Midland Friends of Libraries and Literacy want to wish you a Happy New Year. With all community projects and support, we are looking forward to a great 2014.

In order to keep projects going, we are badly in need of volunteers. You can help during our business hours or outside the business times at your convenience. This organization is totally volunteer. All funds go into our projects. There are NO paid positions. We need you!!

There are many ways to help Friends of the Library and Literacy continue its work for West Texas literacy. The time you give is up to you. You can choose an activity that you would enjoy. Some examples of things you might do are:

- ◆ Sorting books
- ◆ Pricing books
- ◆ Labeling books (no standing)
- ◆ Shelving books
- ◆ Listing books for Amazon (computer skills needed)
- ◆ Occasional special projects

Not only will you feel good about helping make books available to readers at a reasonable price, you will help promote literacy and special projects such as our book scholarship for Midland College students.

Thank you for your support.

Ann Dixon, MARSP Member and Friends of the Library and Literacy Volunteer

## NEWS FROM TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION



The 2014-2015 TRTF Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant applications are ready. Applications may be downloaded from TRTF website at <http://www.trtf.org/index.cfm/scholarships-grants>. For the 2014-2015 school year, TRTF will award 15 \$500 student scholarships and 15 \$500 classroom assistance grants! All completed applications must be received in the TRTF office by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014. The names of the 2014-2015 scholarship and grant recipients will be announced at the 2014 TRTA Annual Convention in Dallas at the Foundation Luncheon on April 14, 2014. Winners do not need to be present and will be notified by telephone and/or e-mail after the convention.

As a retired teacher, your help in spreading the word that the applications are available is much appreciated. Please direct individuals to the website or they may contact Beth Unite at [beth@trta.org](mailto:beth@trta.org) to receive an email version or a hard copy.

Students who are relatives of an active member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) and are pursuing an undergraduate, masters or doctoral degree in education at a Texas university or college may apply. Transcripts must be included with each application.

Scholarship recipients must submit proof of enrollment prior to receiving scholarship money. Deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2014.

### **CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to public school teachers who on a daily basis demonstrate commitment to public education and Texas children through the creation of programs, events or other learning platforms. Applicants may apply individually or as a team and must be a public school teacher in the state of Texas for the 2014-2015 school year. Projects for which the funds are being applied for must be described in detail and approved by the principal with a handwritten signature. Deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Encourage teachers you know to apply today for assistance!

Martha Kallus, TRTF Liaison



### **BRUSH AND FLOSS**

#### ALZHEIMER'S AND YOUR TEETH

Taking great care of your teeth—with daily brushing and flossing—may dramatically cut your risk for Alzheimer's disease, according to surprising new research.

British scientists report finding signs of gum-disease bacteria in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. The new study adds to a rapidly growing body of evidence strongly linking periodontal (gum) disease to greatly increased risk for the memory-robbing disorder.

Byproducts of this bacterium, known as Porphyromonas gingivalis (P. gingivalis), were found in brain samples of four out of ten Alzheimer's patients, but not in samples from ten people of similar age without dementia, according to the study published in *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.

*Karron Pearson, Healthcare*



#### MEMBERS KNOW WE CARE

During times of illness or stress, or when one of our loved ones dies, it is reassuring to know that someone is thinking of us. Recently, MARSP sent thinking of you cards to Diantha Dawkins, Darla Fullen, Lloyd and Dorothy Sanders, and Linda Hall. Sympathy cards were sent to Carolyn Poer on the death of her daughter-in-law Karen Poer, and to Jerita Harper upon the death of her husband Johnnie. A card of congratulations was sent to Carolyn Gunn King upon her marriage. Jarvis Salmon was sent a thank you card for giving us beautiful hand-made cards to send to our members. If you have ever received one of Jarvis's cards, you know how beautiful they are.

If you know of a member who is in need of reassurance because of something going on in their life, please contact Patti Watson. You may call her at 697-1170 or email her at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com). If you have extra cards around your house that you are not using, you may give them to Patti and she will gladly use them.

Patti Watson, Friendship

### NEED A RENT CAR? TRTA CAN HELP!!!



**Avis Rent-A-Car** \*800.331.1212\* [www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600](http://www.avis.com/AvisWeb/html/bridge/go.ex?D404600) For personal and/or business rentals in making reservations, ask for the best rate and mention Avis Worldwide Discount#(AWD) D404600 to receive up to 25% off the rental

**Budget Rent-A-Car**\*[www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500](http://www.budgetcarrental.com/budget/assoc/index.html?X885500) Making reservations for personal and /or business rentals ask for the best rate and mention **Budget Customer Discount# (BCD) X885500** to receive up to 25% off the rental.

**Enterprise Rent-A-Car** \*800.736.8227\* [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com) 10% off from an airport location and 5% off from non-airport location. Use code **65TRTA** by phone and online and enter **corporate code TEX**



Virginia Connor, Member Benefits