

MARSP Newsletter

May, 2012

www.midlandretireded.org



May 3, 2012
MARSP
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704



Update on the TRTA 59th Annual Convention

By Tim Lee

Starting March 27, over 1,000 public education retirees met in Houston at the Westin Galleria for the 59th Annual Texas Retired Teachers Association Convention! The convention is held in a different city each year and serves as our opportunity to train officers and committee chairman from all 260 local units. We also conduct the statewide business of the association, including electing officers for our Board of Directors and voting on by-laws amendments.

The TRTA Legislative Luncheon at Convention was a huge success with over 530 TRTA members in attendance with several hundred others watching the event in an overflow room. A panel of legislators that included State Senator John Whitmire and State Representatives Alma Allen, Larry Gonzales and Dan Huberty answered questions posed by Tim Lee about funding the retirement system and attacks from outside groups that oppose the defined benefit plan.

Officers for the TRTA Board of Directors were elected. Taking office on July 1, 2012 will be President Maridell Fryar, First Vice-President Francis Plemmons, Second Vice-President Nancy Byler, and Secretary/Treasurer Don Vardeman. Herbert Norris will continue to serve on the board as Immediate Past President after his presidency concludes on June 30.

The TRTA House of Delegates discussed and voted upon several bylaws amendments. Amendment 2 passed, allowing officers elected to the TRTA Board of Directors to serve two-year terms. Previously, officers served one-year terms with elections held every year. This change will take effect July 2014. A new business item introduced from the floor of the House of Delegates also passed, making the Local Unit Support Committee a permanent standing committee. No other amendments passed, though Amendment 7 to combine three standing committees was referred to the board for further study.

TRTA appreciates the dedication of our delegates. Your participation in this convention was vital and productive. We also want to give a special thank you to the volunteers of District 4 who hosted the convention. Their tremendous energy and organizational skills made everything operate smoothly!

Note of Appreciation



The following was received by Dorothy Thompson from Maridell Fryar, newly-elected president of TRTA.

Dorothy Thompson and MARSP:

Please convey my appreciation to MARSP and especially to the delegates who were present at the TRTA Convention last week in Houston for their ongoing encouragement and support for me over the last six years and currently as I have served as a state TRTA officer. I am always so proud to claim MARSP as my local unit and to know that members stand ready to give assistance and help as needed. I was completely awed by the gift of \$700 to the TRT Foundation in my honor. That is amazing and I am deeply humbled.

Further, I appreciated the help with my campaign materials and the table at the convention. And of course, the beautiful oral tribute (bell ringing and all) along with two dozen yellow roses at the installation ceremony just emphasized the deep sense of gratitude I have for such a wonderful local unit.

Thank you all so much!

*Fondly,
Maridell*

Please Come to the May Meeting

Don't forget to put Thursday, **May 3** on your calendar. This is the date for the next luncheon meeting of MARSP. Meet and greet begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The program will be the installation of officers for the coming year and the Membership Promotion Drawings. Maridell Fryar, the new state president of TRTA, will be installing the new officers. 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 by Monday, April 30.

Anita would like to thank each of you who consistently gets your reservation in on time.

She appreciates your promptness.



By Tim Lee

Stay Informed Over the Summer

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



To the Members of MARSP,

Thank you for being a vital part of the success of our MARSP Traveling Antique Show. Thank you for being there and bringing your antiques.

Thanks to Mary Jo Boyd for coordinating the beautiful quilts which served as the table cloths on each table. Thanks to Judy Jackson for participating and sharing her knowledge of antiques, and for advising where to research for information as well as seeking help from local people. If you were not present and have antiques that you would like information about, you may want to invest in *Schroeder's Antique Price Guide*. I am so proud of all of you for making the program a distinctive success.

Pat Adams
Program Chairperson

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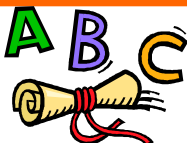
Thinking of Our Members

Cards are sent as needed and requested to our members to let them know that we are thinking of them. Sympathy cards were recently sent to Jann Pullig on the death of her husband Jim. A sympathy card was also sent to Gene Isaacs on the death of his wife Betty. Thinking of you cards were sent to Jeri Evans, Jeannine McKinney, Shirley Ireland, Jan Smith, Leonard Boyd, and Ron Hunt. Get well cards were sent to Lyn Fishman and Kerry Kay Cook. A congratulatory card was sent to Maridell Fryar upon her election to the office of President of TRTA.

The newsletter will not be published during the summer months, but please continue to notify Patti if you know of a member who would appreciate a card. She will send a card, and the names will be published in the September newsletter. She can be reached at 9 Ridgmar Court, 79707, or e-mail her at www.pnw1000@gmail.com. Her phone number is 697-1170. If you have cards that you do not need, donations are appreciated.

Patti Watson
Friendship Chairperson

Please remember to record your volunteer hours this summer. Caring for grandchildren is a wonderful way to get hours. A new ruling by TRTA is that you may only count 12 hours a day as volunteer hours, but those still add up when you are keeping children. Any work you do for which you are not paid is considered volunteer, so please log ALL with those hours. -- Nancy Young



Scholarship Information

The deadline for submitting applications for the MARSP scholarship is Friday, June 1. The award will be presented in the fall to a deserving student. The applicant should :

1. be currently enrolled in a university or college in Texas.
2. be sponsored by a MARSP member who is a relative or mentor.
3. be pursuing an undergraduate or masters degree in education or educational certification.

Forms and instructions for completing them can be found on our website at www.midlandretireded.org. If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of someone, you may do so. Just send a note with your contribution and the honoree and/or the family will be notified. If you are not able to come to the monthly meeting, please send your donation to:

Diantha Dawkins
P. O. Box 80459
Midland, TX 79708

Also, if you are a member of MARSP and would like to serve on the scholarship committee to select a recipient, please notify Diantha at the above address or phone her at 689-8214.

Thanks again to all of you who have donated to our scholarship fund.

Diantha Dawkins
Scholarship Chairperson

Volunteer Hours - April, 2012

Name: _____

Number of Hours: _____

Walking Steps - April 2012

Name: _____

Number of Steps: _____



Will YOU Be Eligible for Membership Prizes?



To guarantee your name is included with possible prizewinners at the May 3 meeting, send your dues to MARSP now. Remember that current memberships end June 30. Please send your membership dues to P. O. 4594, Midland, Texas 79704.

Rejoin to help us remain a strong voice AND help add someone new to the unit. Membership **NUMBERS DO MATTER** to political entities like the Texas Legislature.

If you would like to help solicit prizes, provide a gift card, or donate money for the May Membership Promotion Drawings, call Mike Landrum, 631-7390, or email him at jmlandrum@earthlink.net. The merchant donation form can be downloaded at:



<http://www.midlandretired.org/newsletters/maydonationmerchant.pdf>

You will be eligible for QUALITY PRIZES (over 50 last year) at the May meeting if MARSP receives your membership form with payment postmarked by May 1. (YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!)



TRTA District 18 Spring Leadership Training

April 30th is the Spring Leadership Conference at Region 18 ESC, Midland International Airport. All MARSP Officers and Committee Chairpersons are asked to attend this meeting. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with meetings from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Active Member

“Are you an ACTIVE member,
The kind that would be missed.

Or are you just contented

That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,

And mingle with the flock,

Or do you stay at home

And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part

To help the work along,

Or are you satisfied

To only just “belong?”

Do you do your part

With your hand upon the stick,

Or do you leave the work to others

And talk about the “clique?”

Think this over Members,

You know right from wrong.

Are you an ACTIVE member,

Or do you just belong?”



Anonymous

Articles for the newsletter may be sent to Joyce Whitley or Carole Miller at 1210 W. Golf Course Road, 79701, or e-mailed to www.joyce.whitley@gmail.com. We are interested in topics that interest you, and your suggestions are always welcome.

CAUTION

RISKS For MELANOMA SKIN CANCER

Are you at RISK of developing melanoma, or skin cancer? Do you have or have you had greater than 50 moles or blistering sunburns? Have you used tanning beds more than 50 times? Tanning bed users have an increased risk of more than 74% for melanoma. Light-skinned people are at greater risk, but dark-skinned people are also at risk, and usually their outcomes are not as good.

Women 18-39 are 8X more likely to develop melanoma, and men 18-39 are 4X more likely to develop it than in 1970. The rate of increase is now at epidemic levels.

What can you do to increase your chances of NOT developing melanoma?

Use a good quality sunscreen daily, rain or shine. Wear long sleeves, a hat and sunglasses if you are out in the sun during peak hours.

Be an advocate and share this information with family and friends.

See your dermatologist if you or a member of your family has a concern.

Dr. Nancy Snyderman, MD, NBC News Chief Medical Editor and Dr. Jerry Brewer, Mayo Clinic Dermatologist Aired on NBC National News April 2nd and News West 9 April 3rd, 2012.

Karron Pearson
Health Chairman

If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished.

The Key To Keeping Berries Fresh



Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides. Well, with fresh berries just starting to hit farmers markets, we can tell you how to keep them fresh! Here's a tip I'm sharing on how to prevent them from getting the fuzz in the first place:

Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably works best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl them around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar,) and pop them in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila! Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them.



Karron Pearson
Health Care Chairperson

Book Collection Project Still Ongoing



Texas Retired Teachers' Association Children's Book Project was completed by MARSP for the year 2011 in December. The grand total of books that we, as an association, collected was 3,906. Since January of 2012, we have collected and donated 771 books. The Student Council and the National Junior Honor Society at Goddard Junior High School are currently in the final stages of their book drive for us. It will be complete at the end of April, and we are hoping for many more books to donate. We still need more books in order to surpass our last year's total. When you are visiting garage sales this summer, look for new or slightly used books. It is known that if you tell the people holding the garage sale that you are interested in books for the children of Midland, they will often give them to you, or at the least, sell them to you at a discounted price. Next year we are trying to get another junior high school to hold a book drive for us. Check with neighbors and friends to see if they have books they would like to donate. Ask your grandchildren if they have books they have finished reading that they would like to donate. We are especially in need of children's books, but we will accept books for adults also.

To date this year, we have received thank you notes from Midland Fair Havens, Community Children's Clinic, and Buckner Family Place in appreciation of our donations to them.

Thank you again for your efforts toward this very worthy cause.

Pat Adams
Book Project Chairperson

MARSP Delegates Attended the TRTA Convention in Houston

All who attended the TRTA convention recently reported a very good and educational experience. Many break-out sessions were enjoyed by MARSP members who went. Those who attended from Midland were Karron Pearson, Sharon Welch, Martha Kallus, Maridell Fryar, Ann Parish, Dorothy Baird, Deanna Dunn, Betty Merritt, Nancy Young, Dorothy Thompson, Virginia Conner, and Celia Munoz.

In addition to business, attendees were also able to enjoy several enlightening activities. This year, our charitable arm, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, aired a special video for Foundation luncheon attendees on March 26. You have heard about TRTF's Legacy Campaign to promote a positive image of public education in Texas. Many TRTA members have donated generously to this program. Now, all of our members can view the first of many projects to be conceived from this initiative. You may view the video, "Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: The Texas Public Education Legacy," by following the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4IADf0dUnQ>.

Next year's convention in Corpus Christi marks TRTA'S 60th birthday and will occur April 9-12, 2013. All in TRTA look forward to working closely with District 2 in planning this milestone event!

The winner of the \$100 for recruiting a new member was Ethel Pope of Andrews.

Former MISD teacher to serve as president of Texas Retired Teachers

Posted: Monday, April 16, 2012 9:19 pm | Updated: 9:21 pm, Mon Apr 16, 2012.
Meredith Moriak | Reporter-Telegram |

The next two years will be exceptionally busy for Maridell Fryar as she represents more than 300,000 former educators as president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association. Talking with legislators and lobbying for fair health care and retirement benefit contributions top the list of things Fryar said will occupy her time preparing for the 83rd legislative session.

Fryar taught debate at Lee High School from 1962 to 1979 and served as Midland ISD's executive director of instructional services until she retired in 1993.

On her six-year trek to the presidency Fryar served in other offices, and was elected president March 25 at TRTA's annual convention.

"Although we may be retired, we are not tired," Fryar said. "We still are trying to make a difference like we were when we were in the classroom."

Texas' 300,000 retired teachers do not receive Social Security, but instead are guaranteed annuity through the constitutionally mandated Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Click here to read the complete article:
http://www.mywesttexas.com/life/education/article_c311eb82-8833-11e1-8ed7-001a4bcf887a.html