



MARSP Newsletter

**Come and bring guests for our special
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON and PROGRAM of CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

Dr. Ty Morris -- Music Director, Crestview Baptist Church

Accompanied by his wife, Linda Morris

Thursday, December 6 -- First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

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

Be sure to give an accurate and prompt reservation for you and your guests by email or telephone. A reservation for the meal is a commitment to make payment if not in attendance. Call Yvonne Black at 682-1858 for changes to reservations.

January Meeting

Rays of Hope

By Vicky Jay, Director and Jefferson Award Winner

Learn more about this exceptional program in our community.

Thursday, January 3 - First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

The above time and procedures will be followed for this meeting.

Mark your calendars NOW as this will be your January notice.

13th Check A Reality

Finally, it is confirmed. The 13th check will be sent to eligible recipients in January. Payments are capped at \$2400. See the *TRTA Voice* for complete details.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE NEWS

The TRTA Legislative Committee met in Austin recently to make plans for the next legislative session. The committee will be developing core statements and a survey for prioritizing issues. Every member should take time to read and study the priorities and return it. The results will be the focus of the 2009 Legislative Committee.

The committee believes getting to know our Legislators before the session begins should be a priority.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership for MARSP has reached the total of 334. This is remarkable progress and congratulations go to our membership chairmen, Mike and Kathy Landrum, as well as all those that have worked to increase and maintain membership.

They will be recruiting mid-term retirees as those names become available. Forward other prospective names to the membership chairmen.

Donate Books & Make Contributions for the Purchase of Books

The TRTA Book Project collects books and distributes them in the community. Gently worn or new books for children are being collected for the Midland Community Children's Clinic, Casa de Amigos and other organization for their distribution and use. There'll be a container for your contribution at the meetings.

Storybook Christmas, a book project of Zeta Xi, Delta Kappa Gamma takes donations for purchasing books for every first grader in Midland County. There will be 2200 to 2400 books distributed. It's not too late to make your contribution to this worthy project. Contributions count toward the TRTA Book Project. See Pat Adams or Ann Andrews for information.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Our expression of deepest sympathy to the family, friends and former colleagues of Grace Osadchuk. Grace passed away Saturday, November 24th with her family by her side. She has been recognized and remembered fondly for her many services to MISD, this community, her church and our MARSP.

REMEMBER

**Maridell Fryar with recovery from surgery.
Sarah Macina and Olga Banks with their recovery.
As well as all the others with health concerns for themselves and family members during this Holiday Season.**

Our sympathy and acknowledgement for the loss of former colleague, Frances Walker, a true Purple Bulldog!

A note of appreciation has been received from Dr. Patty Smith for the MARSP contribution to MISD's CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS

A thank you note has been received from Laura Vargas, the current MARSP scholarship recipient. Also a thank you from the Community Children's Clinic for the books donated there.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*



CHANGE OF DATE: MARK YOUR CALENDAR --

AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FORMER COLLEAGUES THAT ARE MAKING RETIREMENT PLANS.

Saturday, February 7, 2008.....District XVIII .Pre-Retirement Seminar at Abell Jr. High 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Resources: TRS Benefit Counselor, Attorney, Financial Advisor, Supplemental Insurance and TRTA Member Benefits

Health Information

Information from an article in Delicious Living Magazine, 11/06 offers the following information: Milk does the body good, but organic milk might do it better. (1) There's no bovine growth hormone, (2) organic cows are free of harmful pesticide residue and (3) less risk of antibiotic resistance.

The following wellness information tidbit comes from the website www.veria.com. Natural things we can use to naturally help joint pain....consume more raw fruits and veggies. Avoid red meat, caffeine and refined sugars.

Volunteer Opportunity

An opportunity for members to volunteer as tax preparers to low income families is being considered. Training will be provided by the IRS. If you are interested in this project, please contact Mike Landrum at 697-7727 before December 4, 2007.

MARSP Luncheon Meeting Minutes -- November 1, 2007

The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met on Thursday, November 1, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. In the absence of the President, First Vice-President Mike Landrum called the meeting to order at 12:31.

Vice-President Landrum called on Bob Watkins to give the invocation and Leonard Boyd to lead us in the pledges to the American and Texas flags. He then introduced Ann Parish, who introduced our speaker, Judge John Hyde. Judge Hyde presented a PowerPoint show about Midland Air Field. Pat Adams announced that a donation was being to the Scholarship Fund in his honor.

Vice-President Landrum then recognized our new members, Linda Engle and Marilyn Noland, and our guests.

Vice-President Landrum asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Leonard Boyd so moved and Pat Adams seconded. The minutes were approved. Copies of the treasurer's report were on the table; no questions were asked, and the report will be filed.

Vice-President Landrum said that since two people joined today, we now have a total of 331 members. However, we have over 1400 annuitants in Midland County, so we have a little form in our yearbooks for potential members.

The yearbooks were printed by MISD at a cost of over \$600, so we are grateful to Dr. Perez. Yearbooks are being stuffed and mailed this afternoon, so members should receive them next week.

Diantha Dawkins reported that the recipient of our fall scholarship is Laura Vargas, a student from Midland who is in her last year at UTPB. She is receiving \$500.

Pat Adams held up the book box that will be in the back each month; members may bring gently used books or make a donation.

Pat also announced that our next meeting would be on December 4, and the entertainment will be provided by Dr. and Mrs. Ty Morris of Crestview Baptist.

Mike Landrum announced that Ann Parish will be taking over the Friendship Committee duties until Grace Osadchuk is able to resume those duties. He asked that information be sent to Ann and that we all remember several members in ill health: Tommie Dearth, Sarah Macina, Grace Osadchuk, and Maridell Fryar.

There was no old business and no new business.

Drawings were held for free MARSP lunches. Andrew Bianchi won for steps walked, and Dorothy Thompson won for volunteer hours. Margaret Leonard won the drawing for new members, and her dues for this year will be refunded.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10.

For those that should be acknowledged by the friendship committee with a note, please contact Ann Parish. Her phone number is 694-8330 or email her at aparish@prodigy.net.

REMINDER: Get ALL your walking steps or other exercise equivalents and volunteer hours from January 07 through December 07 turned in by next meeting in January. Local MARSP chairmen have to turn in a report to District by February 1, 2008. Thanks for your help in making sure our local unit WINS the award at the State Convention....Karron Pearson, MARSP Co-Chair and District XVIII Health Chair.

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| Name: _____ VOLUNTEER HOURS - December, 2007 Number of Hours: _____ | Name: _____ WALKING STEPS - December, 2007 Number of Steps: _____ |
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MARSP Luncheon Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2007

The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met on Thursday, December 6, at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. President Maridell Fryar called the meeting to order at 12:27.

President Fryar thanked Joann Collett for the Christmas piano music and Larry Gilbert and Don Mason for the table decorations. She asked for a moment of silence in memory of three recently deceased members, Dan Allen, Virginia Moore, and Grace Osadchuk. She called on Jane Samples to give the invocation and Leonard Boyd to lead us in the pledges to the American and Texas flags. She recognized our guests and welcomed our new members, Larry Gilbert and Nancy and Roland Moreland.

President Fryar asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Leonard Boyd so moved and Karron Pearson seconded. The minutes were approved. Copies of the treasurer's report were on the table; no questions were asked, and the report will be filed.

President Fryar called on member Ann Neal, who introduced Ty and Linda Morris from Crestview Baptist Church. They presented a program of "unknown" and often humorous Christmas music. They were presented certificates of recognition and money was donated to the scholarship fund in their names.

President Fryar noted several members are in poor health: Olga Banks, Jerry Evans, Bertha Littlejohn, Harlan Narem, Sarah Macina (who was present today), and Ann Sanchez' husband.

We have received a thank-you from Patty Smith for our contribution to the Celebrations of Light.

Announcements:

- The thirteenth check will be mailed on January 15, more or less. The *Inside Line* will have a survey at that time, which can be returned by e-mail or snail mail. As we talk to others about this one-time benefit, we should remind them that TRTA members and grassroots support are responsible. A brief political discussion followed this announcement.
- Vice-President Landrum said that we now have a total of 335 members, of whom 321 belong to state.
- Pat Adams announced that our next meeting would be on January 3, and the speaker will be Vicki Jay of Rays of Hope. There will be no January newsletter, so members are reminded to mark the date.
- The Pre-retirement seminar will be on February 9.
- Members should send in their volunteer hours and steps for the year, if they have not already done so.
- Drawings were held for free MARSP lunches. Loyd Sanders won for steps walked, and Diantha Dawkins won for volunteer hours.
- Betty Merritt has taken a full-time job and therefore has resigned as treasurer of MARSP. President Fryar issued a call for an interim treasurer to fill the office until regular elections in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07.