

# MARSP

## Newsletter

### November 2010

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



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



#### MARSP LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2010

The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel met Thursday, October 7, 2010, at the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church. President Dorothy Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:30. Leonard Boyd led the members in an invocation and pledges to the American and Texas flags. President Thompson thanked Orin Wade for providing piano music during the luncheon.

Mike Landrum welcomed new member Betty Irvin. President Thompson recognized Joyce Baressi and thanked Mary Jo Boyd for the lovely fall table decorations.

Pat Adams introduced our speaker, Ryder Warren, new Midland ISD superintendent, who outlined the challenges of the district. Mrs. Adams then presented him with a certificate from MARSP in appreciation for being our speaker.

In new business, the minutes of the September meeting were presented. With no revisions, they were filed as reported.

David Kleinbeck, District XVIII Legislative Chairman and TRTA Legislative Committee Member, presented a report of his meeting with Kel Seliger, our Texas Senator, regarding the upcoming legislative session. David and other MARSP members urged him to defend defined benefits for TRS. He urged all MARSP members to contact legislators.

Mike Landrum, membership chair, reported that current membership is 358 and emphasized how important TRTA/MARSP membership should be to each retiree.

Pat Adams urged members to bring books and read a thank you note from the Children's Clinic for the books donated to them. Books were placed in five different locations this year. 439 books have been collected to date while last year 1,140 books were collected.

President Thompson thanked Carole Miller and Joyce Whitley for their terrific job producing the MARSP Newsletter. She noted that on the tables were flyers inviting MARSP members to volunteer with the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum.

Drawings were made from those reporting volunteer hours and walking steps.

The Executive Board will meet at Central Office, room 101, on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 1:30.

Please inform Patti Watson, our Friendship Chair, of any members experiencing illness or bereavement so that she can send cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25.

Deanna Dunn, Secretary



#### Friendship Chairperson

Patti Watson, the friendship chairperson for MARSP, has asked to be notified if you know of a member in need of a "thinking of you" card, a "get well" card, or a sympathy card. You may call her at 697-1170 or e-mail her at [pnw1000@gmail.com](mailto:pnw1000@gmail.com). She will send the appropriate card to let our members know that they have not been forgotten.

#### Thanksgiving

The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving.

~~~~H. U. Westermayer

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~~~~ John F. Kennedy



#### Articles for the Newsletter



Please send MARSP Newsletter



articles to Joyce Whitley or



Carole Miller, 1210 W. Golf



Course Road, 79701 or



[joyce.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.whitley@gmail.com).



#### Please Come to the November Meeting

Don't forget to put Thursday, **November 4**, on your calendar. This is the date for the next meeting of MARSP. The guest speaker will be Vicki Jay from Rays of Hope. She will be speaking to us about helping the children of Haiti work through the grief process. 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. Vicki will begin speaking at 12:30 p.m.

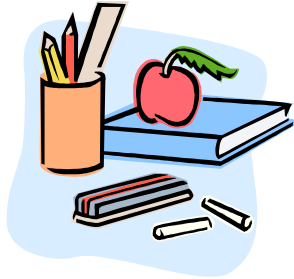
Call Anita Patton at **432-697-1602** or e-mail her at [apatton123@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apatton123@sbcglobal.net) by Monday, November 1.

## Texas Retired Teacher Foundation Month

November is Texas Retired Teacher Foundation Month. Why November? It is the month that we cut the ribbon for opening the building in Austin for the TRTA office a few years ago and a good time to support the Foundation's important endeavors.

TRTF is focused on increasing resources to boost activities in the areas of charitable giving and promoting its mission to enhance quality of life for retired Texas teachers and school personnel. There are three programs TRTF has established to make a difference. The first one is the "Helping Hands" program which is a one-time grant for a person in need. This is not a large grant but may help someone with a specific one-time need. The second program is "Classroom Assistance Grants" which offers funding of projects that a classroom teacher would like to do but does not have school funds for implementing. The third program is the "Foundation Scholarship Program." Student scholarship applicants must be relatives of a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

You will have an opportunity to make a contribution through MARSP at our local meeting or through a mailing from the TRT Foundation. We would like to have a notable contribution from our local unit going to the Foundation. We want to take pride in the strength of our local. Plan to be generous in making your contribution.



For further information regarding the Foundation, you may visit its website at [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org)

Submitted by Martha Kallus  
Local Unit Representative  
Texas Retired Teacher Foundation

**We must remain vigilant as the Texas State Legislature reconvenes in January 2011!  
TRTA/MARSP will keep members informed.**

### **Features of a Defined Benefit Plan (Current Plan):**

1. You cannot outlive your benefit; it guarantees a lifetime pension.
2. Funds are managed by TRS investment professionals.
3. It generates a predictable steady retirement income.
4. Its benefit is based on your age at retirement, years of service, and highest salaries.
5. It is the sole guaranteed retirement income for most TRS members because most Texas public school districts are not part of the Social Security system.

### **Features of a Defined Contribution Program:**

1. You can outlive your benefits because they are based on the amount in your account.
2. Its success depends on each participant's ability to make good investment decisions.
3. It provides disability and survivor benefits based on the individual's account balance only.
4. It can generate an unpredictable retirement income.

## **Beware of Urban Legends**

An urban legend is defined as a modern story of obscure origin with little or no supporting evidence that spreads spontaneously in varying forms. One popular form is e-mail.

Urban legends and rumors eventually become attached to the most famous exemplars of the subjects they discuss. Any fast food-related legend, no matter where it originates, will inevitably be told about McDonalds. So, many of the medical articles circulated on the Internet eventually become attributed to the world renowned Johns Hopkins University, medical school and hospital.

If you recently received an e-mail entitled "Cancer Update from Johns Hopkins Hospital," you should know that the article had nothing to do with Johns Hopkins. It may have been prefaced with an article about the dangers of using microwave ovens to heat food stored in plastic containers. It also stated that you should avoid coffee, tea, chocolate and meat because these foods are poison to your body.

If you receive an e-mail that you think might be a hoax, or one that has information that makes you wonder if it's true, even if it is attributed to a well-known source, please check it out before you accept the article as totally true. Go to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com), type in the name of the article and check out its authenticity.



### Six Ways to Fight the Flu

#### 1. Keep your hands clean.

Wash your hands often to help protect yourself from germs.

#### 2. Cover your cough and your sneeze.

Use a tissue or cover your mouth with your sleeve when you sneeze or cough. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

#### 3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

#### 4. Avoid close contact.

Try to stay away from people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

#### 5. Stay at home when you are sick.

You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

#### 6. Get a flu shot.

Several pharmacies in town are offering flu shots with no appointment necessary. If you have Medicare, there is no charge for the vaccination.



By Tim Lee

TRTA/MARSP 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.

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

### Books Books Books Books Books Books Books

Please remember to bring your children's books to the luncheons. Our count is way down from last year, and we need to be diligent about getting as many as we can. Pat Adams has a "secret" place to buy books, so if you do not have any books but would like to donate cash, Pat will be glad to buy books in your name.



### **TRS-Care Benefit Enhancement**

Retail-Plus Network (effective Sept. 1, 2010)

You can now buy a 90-day supply of your medications at local pharmacies with the same co-pay as if you ordered them through the mail. There are two participating pharmacies in Midland. They are **Albertsons** and **HEB chain pharmacies**. You cannot transfer an existing prescription that still has refills. You must present a new paper prescription or have your doctor call one of these pharmacies.

### Executive Committee Highlights!!!

- ◆ Posters designed to inform active school personnel about TRTA are being distributed currently by members of the board to the designated MISD schools and auxiliary building.
- ◆ For state convention, MARSP will be eligible to have 5 delegates. Six rooms have been reserved in the convention hotel in San Antonio. It is an excellent room price, the hotel is on the river, and it is during Fiesta Week. Members other than the delegates are invited to attend.
- ◆ Mike and Kathy Landrum report that MARSP currently has 363 paid members. If you know a retired school employee who is not a member of MARSP, give the person a call, urge him to come to our next luncheon and even offer to go by and get him.
- ◆ Janet Haney reports that the Retirement Education Seminar will be held Saturday, February 5, at Abell Junior High.

### **JUST A REMINDER**



Smoke alarms should be inside and outside every bedroom and on every floor. Test alarms monthly. Replace every ten years.

Bottom Line, October 1, 2010

### Benefit of the Month

As a TRTA member, you can save 15% on an assortment of beautiful flowers, plants, delicious gourmet treats, gift baskets, and unique giftware for any occasion. Call 1-800-356-9377 or go to [www.1800flowers.com](http://www.1800flowers.com). With Halloween fast approaching, you might want to treat your favorite goblin with a special gift. Please use code AMBA when ordering.

If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, "thank you," that would suffice.

~ Meister Eckhart

### **Volunteer Hours—October 2010**

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

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

### **Walking Steps—October 2010**

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

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