

MARSP Newsletter

November 2015

MARSP, Box 4594, Midland, TX 79704

**Please Come to the November Meeting
November 5, 2015
Program: Dennis Gilmore,
HEB floral designer.**

As always, meet and greet will begin at 11:30 with lunch being served at 11:45, followed by the program at 12:15.

The cost is \$6 and your reservation is your commitment to pay.

Call Anita Patton at 432-697-1602 or e-mail her at apatton123@sbcglobal.net by Monday, November 2, 2015.

If you would like to join us just for the program, a reservation is not needed.

confidential process, starting with the local unit president. The money—which may be a hundred or even thousands of dollars-- is paid directly to the vendor, so it doesn't affect the retiree's taxable income. We gave thousands of dollars to active and retired teachers after the explosion in West, Texas.

Finally, the Legacy program—our newest TRTF branch—is used to create materials to tell people about TRTA. For example, we have created video programs that can be used with active teachers, legislators, civic groups, or even our own members to spread the word about TRTA.

Contributions to TRTF are tax deductible. You may make contributions in honor of or in memory of someone. MARSP has given several contributions in honor of Maridell as she has progressed through the offices at the state level.

How can you give? We will be taking up money at the November meeting, and you may write checks to TRTF. Or you may give on-line at the TRTF website.

Or if you prefer to make a donation by credit card, you may call the TRTF office at 1.800.880.1650. Finally, you can make a contribution or pledge by writing a check and mailing it to:

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation
313 E. 12th Street
Suite 200
Austin, TX 78701-1956

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ann

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MARSP Colleagues,

November is Foundation Month, and I want to encourage you to give generously to the Texas Retired Teacher Foundation.

The Foundation is the charitable arm of TRTA. We give money in four areas. First, we give scholarships to students who are planning to become teachers.

Second, we give grants to classroom teachers who need something special for their classrooms. This year, one of those grants went to a District 18 teacher.

Third, the Helping Hands program (my favorite) gives money to retired TRTA members who need one-time financial help. This boost may be such things as car repairs, dental work, or an air-conditioner. Members request help through a

MARSP LUNCHEON MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2015

The regular meeting of the Midland Association of Retired School Personnel was held on October 1, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church, President Ann Parish presiding. President Parish called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m. and then led the invocation and the pledge. President Parish then expressed her thanks to Orin Wade for providing piano music, Deanna Dunn for the table decorations, Anita Patton for handling lunch reservations, and Mike Landrum for taking pictures.

PROGRAM:

Linda Buzan introduced the guest speaker, Mr. John Trischitti, head librarian of the Midland County Library. Mr. Trischitti was Texas Librarian of the Year in 2014. He outlined some of the libraries' programs and stated that children's literacy will remain a priority.

New Business

President Parish asked members if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes posted in the newsletter. There were no changes, so the minutes were approved as printed. There was no treasurer's report for the month of September.

President Parish reported that the Board of Directors is recommending that MARSP elections be held every two years. This will allow training to coincide with elections. Motion was made by Maridell Fryar that MARSP elect officers for two-year terms, beginning in 2016, to come into alignment with state and district elections. Nancy Young seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Maridell Fryar also moved that MARSP forward a recommended state bylaw change to be considered by the House of Delegates at the state convention in April 2016. The proposed

amendment would change the TRTA Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1, by adding the word Historian to Part 1 and striking Part 2. Nancy Young seconded, and the motion carried

Kerry Kay Cook reported that the membership number stands at 312 members.

President Parish announced that Dorothy Thompson is going home from the hospital, Mary Smith had knee surgery three weeks ago and Debbie Jordan is about to have knee surgery.

The October newsletter, along with the 2015-2016 Directory, will be mailed to all members. Envelopes will be stuffed and mailed on October 23rd.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Karen Burden, Secretary

Committee Reports

Gail Wacker, Foundation Liaison

Since November is Foundation month, I want to make it very easy for each of you to donate in the way you are most comfortable.

1. There will be black-and-white polka dot gift boxes on each table to put undesignated cash or checks in for contributing.
2. There will be brochures on the tables to designate a donation in memory or in honor of someone. These can be placed in the gift boxes also or given to Karen Burden or Mary Smith.
3. The brochure can be taken home and you can go on line and donate.

Thank you for your generosity! It means so much to future, current and former teachers!

Foundation Goals

1. November 2015 has been designated by the TRTA Board of Directors as Foundation Month. The purpose is to increase awareness of the

Foundation, including recent accomplishments and goals for 2016.

2. In 2016, the Foundation's goals include:
1. Award 15 \$500 student scholarships.
 2. Award 15 \$500 classroom assistance grants.
 3. Award at least \$15,000 in grants from the Helping Hands program.
 4. Provide \$10,000 to TASA as a sponsor of the Texas Teacher of the Year (TOY) program.
 5. Expanding the educational program, the Legacy Campaign, by providing scholarships to active teachers and recognizing public schools, raising awareness of the defined benefit plan and the value of being a member of TRS.

Gail Wacker

**Virginia Conner/Lois Templeton,
Retirement Education Co-chairmen**

Pam Buckley from Andrews is the District 18 Retirement Education Chairman for 2015-2016. She has contacted her committee members from District 18. Virginia Conner and Lois Templeton from our Midland chapter will be assisting her. In February, 2016 we will be hosting the Retirement Education Workshop for teachers contemplating retirement.

Sharon Welch, Informative and Protective Services

The Windfall Elimination Provision Re-Visited

The WEP has been a thorn in retired educators' sides for far too long. First implemented in 1982, the WEP prevents retired educators, as well as policemen and firefighters, from receiving the Social Security benefits they earned. On average, the WEP reduces TRTA members' monthly incomes by about \$400.

Remember that the WEP is a national issue and repealing **it requires action from your Congressman**, not your Texas Senator or Representative.

The solution is HR 711, also known as the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, which, if enacted, would increase current WEP monies by as much as 33 percent.

Congressman Kevin Brady (R-The Woodlands) introduced HR 711 on February 4. It is currently sitting in Brady's House Committee on Ways and Means. More co-sponsors are necessary to advance the bill to repeal WEP. Contact Mike Conaway at 2430 Rayburn House Office Building; Washington, DC 20515; phone number 202.225.3605 or <https://conaway.house.gov>.

What is a Good Credit Score?

Pinning down a score may be tricky; FICO and VantageScore operate within the range of 301 to 850. Excellent is 750+ while a bad score is below 600. The higher the number, the lower the risk is for borrowing money from lenders.

What can I get with a good credit score? Some of the best credit cards—from rewards cards to 0% balance transfer offers—go to consumers with strong credit scores. Also, better scores help borrowers get lower interest rates on loans.

Patti Watson, Friendship Chairman

"Thinking of You" cards sent to:

Rob Stewart	Dorothy Thompson
Mary Smith	Debbie Jordan
Roland Rose	

Message from Patti: "I am running out of cards so I need to request a donation of cards sent to me. Also, please notify me of those special ones needing cards."

pnw1000@gmail.com