



MARSP

August-September 2026

Newsletter



Kicking off the MARSP 26-27 year. Tim Lee, the TRTA Executive Director spoke to the Permian area retired teacher chapters. He spoke on the legislative successes from the last legislature and the upcoming priorities for retired educators in Texas.

26-27 MARSP OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – LINDA HANCOCK

1ST VICE PRESIDENT – PAULA KNIGHT

2ND VICE PRESIDENT – BARBARA STOOKSBERRY

SECRETARY – LOIS HILLARY

TREASURER – EILEEN CORLEY

PARLIMENTARIAN – MARIDELL FRYER

CHAPLIN – JOYCE NICHOLS

HISTORIAN – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PAST PRESIDENT – DEBORAH JORDAN



CONCERN FOR MARSP MEMBERS

Sympathy card to Valerie Ponder on the loss of her husband, David. Card sent May 27, 2026

Get Well card sent to Karen Johnson

Birthday Greetings -

J. M. Moore - Kathy Landrum's dad's 100th birthday and in Honor of Mr. Moore's service as a World War II Veteran - Card mailed Aug 18, 2026

Birthday card to Maridell Fryar
Card mailed Aug. 23, 2026. Her birthday was Aug.18.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

We all got "Fired Up!" listening to Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, when he spoke at the August 18th meeting! He is always informative and entertaining. TRTA's 2026-2027 legislative priorities are: restore TRS to actuarial soundness, deliver a meaningful benefit enhancement and fund TRS-Care.

The District 18 Fall conference is on September 29th at Region 18 ESC 8:30 AM - 2 PM. In addition to speakers, we will honor our members who are 90 years or older and those who have passed during the past year. Cost is \$10 per person for the catered lunch. Please let me know if you are attending before September 17th.

Our next MARSP meeting is on October 1st with Midland Mayor, Lori Blong, speaking on "The State of Midland". Meet & Greet @ 11:30 AM; Lunch for \$10 per person @ noon. Please make reservations to Bayta Cullen by September 28th.

I am excited for a great year for MARSP!

Thanks,
Linda Hancock



Legislature Update

The 2027 Legislative session will begin in January. The priorities for TRTA will be:

1. Restore TRS to actuarial soundness.
2. Deliver a meaningful benefit enhancement
3. Fund TRS Care



This month will concentrate on number one.

TRTA argues that the 2025 teacher pay raises, which was HB 2, increased TRS liabilities by approximately \$ 5 billion without funding to offset the impact. As a result, the actuarial funding period increased from 28 years to 35 years. TRTA contends that restoring actuarial soundness is necessary to make future retiree benefit enhancements possible.

TRTA recommends lower TRS unfunded liability period to 31 years or less and develop a strategy that supports future retirees benefit enhancements. Texas needs to honor its commitment to retired educators by strengthening the financial health of TRS.

Next month we will look at priority 2.

Deborah Jordan, Legislative Chair

NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 1ST

Please email Bayta Cullen for your lunch reservation by September 28th. Lunch will be \$10.

Bring a fellow retiree to join us.

Midland Association of Retired School Personnel aka MARSP

is for any retired school personnel which includes staffing from Central office as well as other staff on campuses and anyone from other Texas School Districts!



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Save the Date:

Thurs., Oct 15, 2026

MARSP Scholarship Fundraiser Night @ Mr. GATTIS Pizza!!

Time: 4:00-8:00 pm.

Location: [614 W Wadley Ave, Midland, TX 79705](#).

Share this event with your friends! Please come out & join us as we strive to meet our goals!!



Scholarship Funds Raised:

9/1/26: **Two Or More** graciously donated **\$750**.

They are located @ [3303 W Illinois, Suite 8](#), in Midland.

They are a wonderful organization that donates funds to various local organizations. Please drop by and see what all they have in store for you! You'll be pleasantly surprised! 😊

8/29/26: **Ricardo & Sylvia Ochoa** graciously **donated \$500**. Mr. Ochoa is a manager at Mr. Gattis Pizza and Mrs. Ochoa is a former MISD teacher.

8/5/26: **Joe Bashman** graciously **donated \$250**. He is a financial advisor with the **Bashman Financial Group**, in Midland.

8/7/26: **Joann Sulak** graciously **donated \$100**. She's a former registered nurse.



Membership Update

MARSP membership for 2026–2027 is already at 189 members, but let's NOT stop there! We finished last year at 229, so let's aim for higher than that! Please invite retired educator friends to attend meetings and join. TRTA is the ONLY organization advocating for retired school personnel. As changes in member information are brought to my attention, I will publish the changes in the Membership Update in the MARSP Newsletter. Please add these to your MARSP 2025-2026 Membership Yearbook.

Renewed Members Who Do NOT appear in the 2025-2026 MARSP Membership Yearbook due to timing of printing:

1. Frances Collins, [4703 Teakwood Trace, Midland, TX 79707](#), francesc.44@suddenlink.net, 553-4084, 6/19, 2003
2. Kerry Kay Cook, [603 Chisos Dr., Midland, TX 79707](#), kerrykc@att.net, 694-9930, 12/19, 2004
3. Terri Evans, [1306 McDonald St., Midland, TX 79703](#), evans2307@gmail.com, 352-7715, 10/7, 2009
4. Sylvia Gray, [3210 Stutz Dr., Midland, TX 79705](#), sgray@midland.edu, 223-8434, 10/8, 2020
5. Elise Kail, [2812 Frontier, Midland, TX 79705](#), lewk6@att.net, 638-5322, 5/1, 2021
6. Richard "Dan" Pemberton, [7910 Frankford Rd., Apt. 2125, Dallas, TX 75252](#), rdpjl17@att.net, [214-575-5200](tel:214-575-5200), 12/19
7. Dean Reber, P.O. Box 5151, Midland, TX 79704, kdwd@att.net, 528-3215, 8/15, 2012
8. Karen Reber, P.O. Box 5151, Midland, TX 79704, kdwd@att.net, 528-3207, 5/19, 2017
9. Cheree Smith, [3300 Edgemont Dr., Midland, TX 79707](#), cheree311@gmail.com, 528-3040, 3/11, 2021
10. Linda C. Stephens, [2408 Bluebird Ln., Midland, TX 79705](#), txladylinda13@gmail.com, 352-7870, 12/13
11. Sunny Suzi Whitsell, [7 Idlewood Dr., Canyon, TX 79015](#), sunny whitsell@hotmail.com, 559-0384, 2/20, 2004

Changes to add to the MARSP 2025-2026 Membership Yearbook:

1. Agnes Biggs, new email address agibig@suddenlink.net
2. Sandra Herschberger, new address, [3718 Potts Ct., Richmond, TX 77406](#)
3. Clara Hubert, new phone # 349-0949
4. Nancy Stewart, new phone # 553-4178
5. Mary Rowell, new email address rowellm63@yahoo.com
6. Linda N. Hall, new phone # 553-5810
7. Dale (Warren) Tervooren, new phone # 934-2234
8. Linda Tervooren, new phone # 770-5207
9. New Member: Christine Lee, [3321 Neely Ave., Apt. 2B, Midland, TX 79707](#), cleee_christine@aol.com, 212-3235, 7/5, 2026
10. New Member: David Moore, [6003 Maid Marian Ct., Midland, TX 79707](#), dmoorecastle@gmail.com, 689-2269, 12/6, 2025
11. New Member: Tomasita (Tomi) Reyes, [4221 Timberglenn Creek, Midland, TX 79707](#), tomireyes@outlook.com, 230-8834, 10/18

Due to a glitch in my database, the following name changes need to be made on Page 5 of the MARSP Directory:

1. Linda Grunenwald is actually Linda Griffin.
2. Gloria Hall is actually Gloria Grunenwald
3. Linda N. Hall-Sanders is actually Linda Hall.

Their addresses are correct; only the names were off a line.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so ASAP! You can pay \$35 TRTA dues and \$15 MARSP dues at our next meeting on Thursday, October 1st or mail them to the MARSP P.O. Box. There is strength in numbers, so membership is vital. Please stay informed and stay active!

Thank you,
Paula Knight
MARSP 1st VP/Membership



TRTF UPDATE

November is Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) month. We will collect coins, cash, and checks at our October and November meetings. TRTF is an important part of our organization with five programs: A Helping Hand, First Year Teacher Scholarships, Classroom Assistance Grants, Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund, and Disaster Relief Fund. We will have containers at the sign-in table and the luncheon tables in October and November, so bring your coins for some 'jingle-jangle' and cash or checks for some 'rustle-rustle' in our containers. For more information about TRTF, check out the website at www.trtf.org or contact Heather Bostic at hjeb53@gmail.com.

HEALTH TIPS

EXERCISE OR NOT?

Did you know that walking and gardening are the two types of activities for exercising. With social media, there are lots of physical activities you can do, such as chair- yoga, tachi, etc., also you can go to Silver Sneakers. There are so much out there it can become tiresome and hard to keep up. If you are a homebody and don't like group activities or going out or outside, I will be giving some suggestions to do at home. #1 suggestion:

- Know you habits. write down a briefly schedule of what you do. do this for one week.

See you next month for suggestion #2

Larry Pitts, Health Committee