

MARSP DECEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026



December 2025 Program

Terrill Littlejohn, a man of many talents, presented the program at the December 4th MARSP meeting. Terrill is a member of MARSP and the Storytelling Association. He kept us entertained and laughing as he talked about Christmas when we were young. WE all could relate to his stories!

There will not be a meeting in January, so the next meeting will be February 5th. The program will be presented by D'Anna Baucom who is our AMBA representative.



MARSP - 2025 VOLUNTEER HOURS

LAST CALL

If you haven't already, please submit your January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025 volunteer hours ASAP. We don't want to miss anyone and certainly want the Midland Association of Retired School Personnel to have as much as possible reported. Send a note with your name & number of hours to Helen Whitehead:

E-mail to hlwhite54@gmail.com or

Text to 432 553-3924

President's Note

Dear MARSP Members,

HELLO 2026! This coming year shows to be exciting with all the political and social events in our country. Educators tend to keep up to date on events and occurrences of importance. According to The Voice, TRS is having a hard time with maintaining actuarial soundness with new legislation and teacher salaries. It breaks my heart to see that Texas is at the bottom of the barrel, in contributing to teacher retirement, yet Texas totes how education forward we are. At our February luncheon, I want to go over the article in The Voice to make sure everyone understands the situation with TRS funding. Then to discuss what we need to do to help remedy this situation. If you haven't read the article, please do before our luncheon on February 5.

Thank you

Debbie Jordan

President MARSP



MARSP MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Happy New Year Members! Currently, our membership is at 225 members. Although we've started a new calendar year, we are still continuing the 2025-2026 TRTA/MARSP membership year which doesn't end until June 30, 2026. Let's continue to invite retired educator friends to the meetings and invite them to join our local. Stay in touch with others for their health and well-being as well as your own!

Please keep using your 2024-2025 MARSP Yearbook until the next one is published. As member updates are communicated, they will be published in the MARSP Membership Newsletter Article each month. Please update or add the following members:

Returning Member:

- **Jo Hayes Butler - 2433 Whitmire Blvd., #89, Midland, TX 79705, 352-4794, 6/4, 2000.**

Together we are stronger and more powerful! Membership in TRTA and MARSP is important for all retired school personnel!

Thank you,

Paula Knight

MARSP 1st VP/Membership

MARSP Scholarship Deadline is Approaching

Patricia Maurer, Scholarship Chair

Awarding scholarships to individuals pursuing higher education or additional certifications related to our profession represents one of the most exciting things MARSP does each year. This is our opportunity to build a legacy of excellence.

Over time, we have given scholarships to students just beginning their undergraduate programs in education, to teachers working on master's degrees in reading, counseling, and educational leadership, and to several individuals seeking to complete alternative certification. The MARSP scholarship is unique in that it is a cash award, allowing the recipient the professional discretion to use the \$2,500 award to their best advantage in their school program. Most use the money for tuition, but others have purchased textbooks, computers and calculators – equipment issued in public high schools, but not at public universities.

The scholarship application can be accessed on the Midland Association of Retired School Professionals website at <https://www.midlandretireded.org/>. When the page opens, go to the box in the top left-hand corner and click on MARSP documents. The Scholarship Form is the second listed. Click on it and you will find the directions. The process is not cumbersome, but the application is due on or before February 28, 2026. Winner(s) will be announced at our May 2026 meeting. Please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in making an application. It's exciting to help build and support our profession. We may be retired, but we are still interested, engaged, and making a valuable contribution.

TRS Legislative News

TRS conducts annual actuarial valuations through an independent consulting group. These valuations offer important insights into the health and long-term outlook of the pension fund. The most recent results, presented to the TRS Board of Trustees on December 5, 2025, delivered disappointing news for retirees hoping for a cost-of-living increase. Achieving actuarial soundness is essential, as it is the threshold required by TRS to approve a cost-of-living increase for retired educators. To read more concerning this news, log onto <https://trta.org/2025/12/05>.





Concern for Members

Margy Holleman House departed this life on October 24, 2025. A sympathy card was given to the family and friends of Margy Holleman House on December 5, 2025.

The Chocolate Therapist - 5 Health benefits of dark chocolate:

- *The antioxidants have been shown to increase blood circulation to the heart
- *The flavanols are known to have a positive impact on the brain * Researchers confirmed, after eating it, patients experienced reduced levels of the stress hormone cortisol
- *It can help increase the production of nitric oxide in the blood which can increase athletic performance
- *The higher the cocoa content, the better - 70% and above.

Go enjoy your dark chocolate with no guilt!!!

MARSP Foundation

Update on the total amount for 2025 will be given at the Feb 5th meeting by the Foundation committee, but currently the donations have exceeded the total of last year.

**See everyone at the Feb 5th
meeting at 1st Baptist Church.
Bring a fellow retiree to join us!**

