

2025 May Newsletter

May Luncheon Program

Susan May, Master Naturalist, was the guest speaker at the MARSP meeting on May 1st. Susan spoke about native bees and their importance. She also taught us the difference between bees, wasps, and flies and the different bee types.



Please Read—Lunch Cost Change for 25-26 Year

Hope you have a fun and restful summer. The cost of the Luncheon meals will be **\$10.00 next year**. Please make a reservation for the Luncheon with Bayta Cullen by emailing bayta.cullen@gmail.com before the deadline. We are trying to be efficient with the count when we reserve the meals. We are responsible for those meals so if you cannot make it to the Luncheon, it would be appreciated if you would take care of that amount at the next meeting.

We also have a Tax - Exempt form that you can use when you purchase items for the organization. I have those forms so please ask to get a form before you go out and make a purchase. We will not be reimbursing the tax on the Reimbursement Form. Thank you, Eileen Corley, MARSP Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear MARSP Members

As we go into the summer season, I hope your plans include some fun activities and possibly travel. This has been a very interesting year as far as the legislative session and the battle over vouchers. Continue to keep a close eye on what is happening with HB 3221 and how it affects TRS. Please contact Craddick to vote no on this bill and his office number is 512-463-0500. Please read Tim Lee's The Inside Line to keep up with what legislation is being presented.

Sincerely

Debbie Jordan, President



THINKING OF YOU!

May 2, 2025 - Thinking of You card sent to Kathy Landrum's father, J.M. Moore, who is now in Hospice Care.

May 2, 2025 - Sympathy card sent to Yolanda Sanchez, condolences for the passing of her mother, Armida Best.

LEGISLATURE NEWS

On the Inside Line with Tim Lee on Friday, May 2, Tim is asking for testimonials from retired TRTA members about how the repeal of WEP and GOP has affected you, favorably. Reports of how the COLA and/or the stipend, etc. back in 2023 will help as TRTA is getting ready to start a digital and marketing advertising campaign for membership renewals in addition to spreading awareness and increasing membership. Our best advertisement comes from our members. You may share your story on Facebook or on YouTube.

MARSP 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Patricia A. Maurer, Scholarship Chairperson

The Midland Association of Retired School Personnel is proud to announce its MARSP Scholarship Winner for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Ms. Trine Catano Reya is a student at Midland College pursuing an associate degree in the Science of Education. She anticipates celebrating this first graduation at the end of the summer.

Ms. Reya has a proven record of student success. She has previously completed three certification programs at Midland College, Childcare Provider, Childcare Administrator, and Paraprofessional School Age. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Midland College and was highly recommended by Victoria Bosch, a member of the Child Development faculty.

Ms. Reya has a proven record of success as a teacher of young children, having taught preschool students for thirteen years at Kidtown Daycare through the Texas Rising Star Program. She also teaches young children in the Sunday School Program at her church and received warm words of praise and gratitude from her pastor. Melba Arizpe spoke to her dedication, intelligence and remarkable compassion. CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

24-25 Scholarship Award Continued

On a personal note, Ms. Reya acknowledges Ms. Barbara Yarborough at South Elementary as her mentor and staunch supporter since childhood. Ms. Yarborough was her teacher and her son's teacher. She shared that she was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year at South on three occasions when her son was in attendance.

Ms. Reya was recognized at our May meeting and joined by her brother, Steven Catano, and her son, Ernest Reya, for the luncheon. We were excited to award this scholarship to Ms. Reya and hope it encourages her to continue her work and complete a bachelor's degree and teacher certification.

We encourage all members of MARSP to consider donating to the scholarship fund. This is one of the most important and rewarding activities that we do as a local organization. It demonstrates that, while retired, we are still dedicated to building the profession and to encouraging the next generation of teachers in Texas.

MARSP's HEALTH INFO

Have a safe fun-filled summer! Enjoy the benefits being outdoors gives, and be sure to use the protection sun screen gives!

Dorothy Blair–Health Chair.



Membership Update

We currently have 173 MARSP members for the 2025-2026 year. This is a great start but....far from what we want as our actual membership numbers! I'm sure some members have just forgotten to send in their MARSP/TRTA renewal forms (sent via snail mail in March) and dues; MARSP dues are \$15; TRTA dues are \$35. You can send a \$50 check to cover both, and I will make sure both are documented.

TRTA has been SO proactive for its members and all retirees! Over the last few years, TRS retirees have seen the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), a cost-of-living increase, a 13th check, increased state funding for the pension fund, and reduced TRS-Care premiums. These successes have been due to the strength of TRTA's membership.

With members sending in renewal membership forms and payments, members have also been updating their information. Please update your 2024-2025 MARSP Year-book for the following members:

New Member:

1. **Judy Bradford**, 2433 Whitmire Blvd., Apt. #1, Midland, TX 79705

judyhbradford@gmail.com, 325-733-6067, 2/20, 2024

2. **Mary Peterson** new phone #, 210-6523

Together we are stronger and more powerful!

Membership in TRTA is important for all retired education personnel!

Paula Knight

MARSP 1st VP/Membership



Thank You to 1st Baptist Church And Staff

In our May meeting MARSP's recognized the 1st Baptist Church for hosting our monthly meetings in their fellowship hall and also the maintenance and kitchen staff that provide their services at each meeting. Thank you gift cards were given to each department.



**ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER!
SEE EVERYONE
AT THE FALL
25-26 MEETING!**

