

MARSP

Newsletter

NOVEMBER, 2018

www.midlandretireded.org

November 1, 2018
MARSP
Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704



PLEASE COME TO THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Don't forget to put Thursday, November 1, on your calendar. This is the date for the next luncheon meeting of MARSP. Meet and greet begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:00 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$6, and your reservation is your commitment to pay. The guest speaker will be Martha Kallus who is the Liaison to the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF).

Call Anita Patton at 432-349-6822 or e-mail her at apatton123@sbcglobal.net by Monday October 29

A special donation will be taken that day to present to the foundation. You may earmark your gift for one of the special groups of TRTF and make it in memory or in honor of someone special.



WHY SHOULD RETIRED TEACHEERS VOTE ??

BECAUSE WE DESERVE BETTER!!!

- We must protect the defined benefit plan and funding for the TRS pension fund
- We need affordable and accessible health care for ALL Texas education retirees.
- We must promote an annuity increase for ALL retirees.
- We support the reform at the national level for Social Security offsets, the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and Government Pension offset (GPO).

TRTA's legislative committee asks that TRTA members consider voting for candidates who will support TRTA's issues and those who will actively seek solutions for our priorities. Click the links below to gather more information on candidates running for office.

www.texaseducatorsvote.com
www.teachthevote.org
www.vote411.org

Jan Van Eman
Legislative Liaison



BEWARE OF SCAM

Newest scam: CVS Pharmacy scam. This scam attempt has happened to several people in my area, including me. Do not fall for it. It has been reported to CVS and they verify it is a scam. (Earl Wall) A person playing a CVS Pharmacy calling tape will call you saying there is a problem with your prescriptions. They cannot fill your prescriptions until you give them your address, date of birth, and social security number. They will not tell you what your prescription is for until you give them this information. **DO NOT DO IT.** The phone call I received came from Jackson, Wyoming, but they are coming from different areas of the nation. If you get one of these calls, give out no personal information. Then call CVS headquarters and report the phone call. They can tell if you if it was a legitimate call or a scam. What make this one dangerous is they have copied the CVS phone call tape and just added the last sentence to the tape. It appears to be a legitimate call from CVS. CVS is trying to get this scam stopped, but please use caution if you get one of these calls.

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services



CALL TO ACTION FROM YOUR MARSP PRESIDENT

Many of us attended the Region 18 Fall Conference in September. The TRTA speaker was Marcy Cann, Second Vice President. She emphasized that we all have influence. One in twenty Texans is in TRS; therefore, we must influence people around us to vote and contact our legislators to guard our retirement and health care.

Barbie Pearson, TRS Chief Benefits Officer, went over what we need from the legislature during this session. Appropriations of \$1.6 billion for the biennium will make our annuity actuarially sound and an additional \$410 million will make our health care solvent.

Please contact

Kel Seliger

P.O. Box 9155

Amarillo, TX 79105, (806) 374-8994

Tom Craddick

500 West Texas, Suite 880

Midland, TX 79701, (432) 682-3000.

Help them understand the hardships that you experience living in 2018 on a 2002 retirement (our last cost of living raise). Tell your story. Contact them with an eye-catching postcard, thank them for their past support, encourage other retirees to contact them, and send several cards in the next 3-4 months. Mention that you are their constituent. You have influence; use it to improve your life!

Deanna Dunn,

President MARSP

JOIN US

The MARSP membership is at 248 as of October 8, 2018. If you have not joined, you can find a membership form on the MARSP website. Please remember TRTA is the only group that advocates for retired teachers. Your membership and vote are very important.

Deborah Jordan

Membership Chair

ATTENTION-ATTENTION-ATTENTION

Many of our members have not received their membership cards. The following explanation came from TRTA:

'We have a great deal of trouble with the post office over these cards. An overwhelming number of them do not make it to the recipient. Members now have ability to print their own member cards by logging in to the profile from the TRTA website(www.trta.org). You can now print your own card. '

I hope this helps with receiving our cards. Again if you have questions please contact Debbie Jordan (debraejordan@hotmail.com) or Michele Cobb (micheleharmon1@gmail.com).

ATTENTION-ATTENTION-ATTENTION



By Tim Lee Keep up with the

happenings in Austin for Retired Educators.

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**

Volunteer Hours November 2018

NAME _____

Number of Hours: _____

Exercise for November 2018

Name: _____

YES I EXERCISED _____



MIDLAND ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONNEL MINUTES

October 4, 2018

The regular meeting of the Midland Association Retired School Personnel was held October 4, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. The meeting was called to order at 12:08p.m. by the presiding president Deanna Dunn. President Dunn welcomed all members and some of the members' mothers that were in attendance. President Dunn thanked everyone who turned in reservations.

The invocation and pledge were led by Anita Patton.

Cindy Truitt introduced the guest speaker, Daniel Stief, of the Midland Police Department. Mr. Stief presented a video and presentation on "CRASE- Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events." The video showed what to do and different ways of surviving an active shooter. After a question and answer session, Cindy presented Mr. Stief with a certificate of appreciation.

President Dunn reported on the Fall TRTA workshop at region 18. The speakers emphasized voting and calling your state representatives concerning health care and cost of living raise.

-Debbie Jordan reported a current membership count of 248.

-Bayta Cullen reported on the yearly goal for the Book Project and 200 more books are needed. Please bring more books to meeting.

-November's Program will focus on "TRTA Foundation Program."

-The minutes for September were printed in the newsletter and will be filed as printed

-The Treasurer's Report was distributed and approved. It will be filed for audit.

-Helen Whitehead explained the handout concerning the volunteer hours.

-Kathy Favor, Scholarship chair, emphasized today's focus is on collecting money for our scholarship foundation. The scholarships can be given as a gift in memory of someone or in honor of someone's.

- Patti Watson reported there weren't any names at this time. If anyone has cards, please donate.

-Foundation Liaison Martha Kallus's report was presented by Ann Parish. She reported that November is Foundation month. Monies will be taken for the foundation at the next meeting. There have been several deaths in our membership recently and donating to the foundation or the scholarship fund in memory of someone is a great way to honor them. Ann Parish gave highlights on the Foundation Program functions.

-Nancy Young, chair of Healthy Living, presented the winner Patti Watson a free meal.

-Helen Whitehead, chair of Community Volunteer Service, presented the winner Paula Knight a free meal.

-MARSP Board Meeting Monday, October 8th at 1:30p.m., in room 117 which is a different room from where we usually meet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17p.m.

Nancy Ashley, Secretary



THINKING OF MEMBERS

Cards are sent each month to our members to let them know they are in our thoughts. Thinking of you cards were sent to Bayta Cullen and Debbie Neely. I received this note from Martha Kallus.

I would like to thank all those from MARSP that made phone calls, sent cards and gave memorials. I am so grateful for your support and remembrances of Dan. Thank you. Martha Kallus

If you are aware of a member who would appreciate a card, please notify Patti Watson at 697-1170 or e-mail her at pnw1000@gmail.com. If you have extra thinking-of-you cards, she could use them.

Patti Watson, Friendship Chair



MARSP VOLUNTEER HOURS

The MARSP collects volunteer hours from members to present to the State of Texas Legislators. Why is this important? These statistics are impressive and speak volumes when we ask for consideration and support from the State for our health care and other benefits associated with our retirement. The collected data is due February 15 of each year. The data will be translated into unpaid dollars when reported. Hours may be counted for any service provided without pay and includes door-to-door and preparation time. Examples of volunteer hours would include, but are not limited to: schools, libraries, museums, any non-profit, hospitals and nursing homes, small businesses and business offices, friends, neighbors, family, senior citizen centers and other community services, raising money for worthy causes, church, babysitting, etc. Putting together volunteer hours will never do them justice, but it is a way for us to show the contributions individuals and organizations have made in our communities.

The independent sector has estimated the value of volunteer time for 2017 was \$24.14 per volunteer hour. Consider the following:

1 Volunteer hour = \$24.14

10 Volunteer hours = \$241.40

10 Volunteer hours x 12 months = \$2896.80
\$2896.80 per year x 40 members =
\$115,972.

The number of units in Texas and the number of hours turned in should mean something to legislators in Austin. Many of you do more than 10 hours per month, so this example could be much greater. Please help us collect the data monthly if possible by submitting your hours at the monthly meeting or e-mail me at hlwhite54@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your participation in getting the 2018 data collected.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Helen Whitehead, Community Volunteer Service Committee



TRTA BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS INCLUDE SUPER DEALS AND GREAT DISCOUNTS

Save money!! For Apple products discount call 1-877-377-6362.

For Dell computers visit www.trta.org and access the Member Benefits information under Membership.

Lyn Fishman, Benefits



HEALTH TIP

If you work out at a fitness facility take along wipes to wipe down the equipment before and after you use it. Some facilities provide these for this purpose. It is especially important as we approach the flu season. Also use them for grocery carts and other carts in retail stores.

Nancy Young, Health Care

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR VOTING!!!!



October 9: Last day to register to vote. To register to vote in Texas, you must be a U. S. citizen, 18 years old on Election Day, mentally sound, and not a convicted felon.

October 26: Last day to ask for a mail-in ballot. If you are going out of town on Election Day, or if you are at least 65 years old, or disabled, you may ask for a mail-in ballot.

October 22-November 2: Early Voting. You must have a photo id in order to vote.

November 6: Election Day is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ann Parish, Informative and Protective Services