

MARSP
NOVEMBER 2026



The speaker at the November 5th meeting of MARSP was Renee Page of the Midland YMCA. She informed the members of the Dell Foundation, the Elon Musk Foundation, and the Invest America Account. All of which are savings accounts for children in Texas. Renee also spoke about the new YMCA facility on Briarwood and the renovations which will be starting soon at the older facility. The different aspects of the Silver Sneakers program were also discussed. For more information, contact Renee at rpage@midlandymca.org

The program at the December 3rd meeting will be presented by Lindsey Owens, Attorney at Law and shareholder at LCA Law Firm. She will be discussing the legal forms and which older people need to have in effect.

2026 - VOLUNTEER HOURS

We are nearing the end of calendar year 2026. Some of you have been reporting your volunteer hours monthly at our regular meetings and some prefer to do it annually. Please be diligent to report **all** of your volunteer hours for January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026 by January 25, 2027.

There is a form on the MARSP website for your use to keep track of your hours and there are also reporting slips at the monthly meetings. Report your hours monthly or annually. Either way is perfectly OK. Our total annual volunteer hours are reported to TRTA. Every effort you make to report volunteer hours shows our commitment to retired school personnel. You may use any method you like to report your hours via of text, email, or paper to:

Helen Whitehead
hlwhite54@gmail.com
432 553-3924



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Since Linda Hancock, MARSP President, is currently at a rehab facility for her back and other health issues, Barbara Stooksberry (2nd VP) and I (1st VP) are filling in for her. I'm leading the Executive Board meeting and producing the minutes for the meetings while Barbara is leading the main meeting.

At the November 5th meeting, Renee Page, AOA Director at the YMCA, presented lots of great information for our group about programs that the YMCA has available for us. Silver Sneakers has many live and in-demand classes available for FREE for members of that program. If you are on Medicare, you are eligible for the program. If not, contact Renee when at the YMCA for a trial membership. She also relayed great information for available money that's FREE for our grandchildren or great grands. Look into that!

Please don't forget to donate to TRTF! November is TRTA Foundation Month. TRTF is dedicated to helping active and retired educators with their financial needs with 5 programs that assist educators. For detailed information about the programs, look at the TRTF website, www.trtf.org. In addition to what has been collected at meetings, you may send your donation check to the MARSP mailbox before November 20th, when all the TRTF collected funds will be sent to TRTA. If you want your check to be tax deductible, make it out to TRTF; otherwise, use MARSP in the "to" line of your check and "TRTF" in the memo line This is truly a worthy cause for educators!

Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 3rd at First Baptist Fellowship Hall with Meet and Greet at 11:30 AM and lunch ($10) served at noon with reservations to Bayta Cullen, bayta.cullen@gmail.com. The speaker is Lindsey Owens, attorney at law and shareholder at LCA Law Firm; she will be sharing information on estate planning, probate, living wills, and other legal matters that older people need to know to "get their affairs in order". That's another set of topics we all need to know about!

Hope to see you at the December 3rd MARSP meeting! Invite friends to the meeting. "Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together."--Woodrow T. Wilson

Paula Knight
MARSP 1st VP

CONCERN FOR MEMBERS

A Thank You card was sent to Terrill Littlejohn for a donation of $25.00 in September and for an additional one in October for the scholarship fund. I think he makes monthly donations but doesn't want any attention drawn to it. We had a good laugh when I told him we would just thank him verbally in lieu of buying a card and a stamp! 😜

We received a $5000 donation from Friends of Libraries and Literacy, Inc. The Thank You card was sent Oct. 14.

Thanks,
Lois Hillary
Concern for Members

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHER FOUNDATION (TRTF)

TRTF donations - Thanks to everyone who has already donated to the foundation this year. It is much appreciated! However, we have not quite met our goal of 500.00 from our chapter. If you have not donated yet, and plan to, please send your donations to the post office box or take them to Eileen by Friday, November 20th. The P.O Box address is MARSP, P.O. Box 4954, Midland, TX 79704. Let's reach our goal! Thanks!

Heather Bostic
TRTF Committee

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Fantastic News!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY and LITERACY BOOKSTORE BECOMES OUR PRIME SUPPORTER!







We are proud to announce that Midland's **Friends of Libraries and Literacy bookstore (FOLL)** donated **$5,000** (five thousand dollars) towards our 2026-2027 Scholarship Fund! This makes **FOLL** our prime supporter this year! Their donation has made it possible for MARSP to award two scholarships in May 2027. Please help us in thanking **Dianna Christensen**, President of the Executive board of FOLL, all the other members of the Executive Board, and the hardworking volunteers who made this gift possible!

Friends of Libraries and Literacy bookstore is located at 2305 W Michigan Ave in Midland, TX. They are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm. They are a non-profit organization run by volunteers! FOLL takes books donated by the public and makes them available in their bookstore at very affordable prices. They carry various genres, along with children's books, antique books, audio books, cookbooks, DVDs, albums, CDs, and even big books used in early childhood classrooms!

FOLL's proceeds also go towards literacy projects throughout West Texas. They support various libraries, area organizations, and numerous schools. If you have any new or used books, you would like to donate to FOLL, they have a BOOK DROP conveniently located behind their store that is always available!

More News on Scholarship Funds Raised:

On Oct.15th we held our **Mr. Gattis Pizza** Scholarship Fundraising event and are waiting to hear back from them on the amount we raised. We want to give thanks to members of the community who attended and a special Thank You to MARSP member, **Felicitas Baesa,** for attending!

On Nov. 4th, we held our **Black Bear Diner** Scholarship Fundraising event. It was attended by numerous community members along with several MARSP members- including **Paula Knight, Debra Jordan,** and **Valerie Ponder**. Donation results from this event will also be made available soon.

During our November 5th MARSP meeting, we raised $100 from our two raffles! That amount was added to the $255 we raised from outside donations; therefore, a grand total of **$355** was submitted to our treasurer this month.

We also wish to recognize and say **Thank You** to **Ms. Sally Diaz Valdez, Independent Mark Kay Consultant.** She contributed a **Skinvigorate Duo Facial Brush** worth over $100 for our November raffle. Sally also donated a **$100 Gift Card** that will be raffled at one of our upcoming meetings. If you or someone you know needs any **Mark Kay** products, please contact **Sally Diaz Valdez** at **432-552-9553.**

Friends of the Library generously donated some of their LARGE PRINT books for us to use in our November raffle! **FOLL** is always supporting us in a variety of ways!

Special thanks to all the MARSP members and guests who participated in purchasing a $10 raffle ticket! Every dollar that is contributed helps support a future teacher, and we sincerely appreciate everyone's participation!

Congratulations to this month's Raffle winners:



Ms. Dusty LaLanne - Large Print Books, Courtesy of Friends of the Library



Ms. Donna Whiles - SKINVIGORATE Duo Brush
Courtesy of Ms. Sally Diaz Valdez, Mary Kay Independent Consultant

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



MARSP membership is now at 210 members, but that's not nearly enough! If you know any educational personnel retirees, invite them to our next meeting and to join MARSP/TRTA. The meetings have informative speakers, tasty meals and friendly retirees to socialize with.

With each newsletter, there will be updates on any changes in members' info as well as info about new members. The changes and newbies are:

1. Donna Whiles, new email dkwhiles@gmail.com
2. Judy Bradford should be Judy Heintz-Bradford.
3. Sandra Wylie, new phone #970-481-3359
4. New Member: Gloria H. Martinez, 4104 Anetta Dr., Midland, TX 79703, 19gloria.49martinez@gmail.com, 230-1357, 3/7, 2003

TRTA is the only organization that advocates for retired educational personnel. There is strength in numbers. Let's encourage others to join and reap the benefits! "We are stronger together than we are alone." — Walter Payton

Paula Knight
MARSP 1st VP/Membership

HEALTH UPDATE

Hi everybody, the holidays are upon us. If you weren't at the November meeting you missed the YMCA Speaker, saying by stomping a certain amount of time while standing, it will help fight of bone density or osteoporosis so stomp several times a day while standing.
Now, to get back to routine, if you are a soap opera fan or a Judge Judy or Mathis fan, I want you to get two can goods out of the pantry and set them in your chair next to you, during every commercial, take those cans, one in each hand and do arm exercises; curls, arms out-front, to the side, arms circle and etc.; just do them only during commercials, talk to you next time.

Larry Pitts
Health Committee

December Holiday Meeting will be December 3rd

at 1st Baptist Fellowship Hall

Contact Bayta Cullen (bayta.cullen@gmail.com) for a lunch reservation

