

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2025

MARSP NEWSLETTER

MARSP August 21st Meeting

Friends Bookstore of Midland made a donation of \$2,000 to the MARSP Children's Book Project. Making the presentation was Ophelia Pallanez, manager and 3 board members. This donation will double the amount of books that MARSP will be able to contribute to the First Baptist Church CDC. The Friends also donated 170 books which have been given to the Child Development Center for the students, teachers, and library.



Tim Lee, our TRTA Legislator also spoke at the meeting and updated all the local TRTA chapters in attendance on what is happening in Austin and what we can do to help our Organization members and all Texas education retirees.



MARSP 2025 Volunteer Hour Report

Your hours spent volunteering speaks volumes about retired school personnel. The Independent Sector volunteer hourly rate for 2025 is \$34.79. The accumulated value of volunteer hours is reported to the TRTA annually and that data lets our legislators know how committed we are to support retired school personnel. THANK YOU members of MARSP for giving your time back to the community and **THANK YOU TRTA** for your commitment to representing Texas retired school personnel.

MARSP members have already began collecting hours for 2025. Please keep track of your hours so we can have another great year of giving back. For your convenience, there is a form on the MARSP website for your use to keep track of your hours and there will also be reporting slips at the monthly meetings. Any means of maintaining your hours is acceptable. Report your hours monthly or annually. Either way is perfectly OK. 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

HEALTH NEWS

Most of us depend on at least one cup of coffee a day, as in the morning, it can get our engines running. The caffeine in it helps with that. Remember, coffee is made from beans; and nutritionists approve highly of beans! A simple cup of black coffee includes benefits such as calming nerves, fighting against inflammation and lowers the risk of chronic disease. Go easy on too much milk or cream or sugar..... but if you want to spice up your coffee, there are several spices you could try. Cinnamon stabilizes blood sugar and helps improve your LDL cholesterol and is also a good source of Vitamin K and iron! Cardamom - Vitamin C and calcium. Plus provides dietary fiber, and iron. Nutmeg delivery's manganese. Cocoa powder, too, has protein, potassium, and zinc - but use it sparingly. So, enjoy your cup of coffee whether black and hot or spiced up!!!



LEGISLATURE

In viewing the 89th Legislative Session that began on January 14, and ended on June 2, 2025, there were not any new legislative issues that are of any new concern for us as TRTA members at this time. However, below you will find TRTA's Legislative Priorities that are state issues for the 89th Legislative Session from September 24, 2024, that are on-going:

- 1. Maintain a solvent TRS pension fund by fully funding statutory contribution rates and using excess state revenues to help reduce the unfunded liability.**
- 2. Provide a benefit enhancement to help offset the negative impact of inflation.**
- 3. Maintain and protect TRS-Care by fully funding the current statutory contribution rates.**

CONCERN FOR MEMBERS

1. Kathy Landrum – Thinking of You (healing from an accident) 7-26-2025
2. Nancy Ashley – Sympathy – (passing of her brother) 8-26-2025
3. Patty Watson – Thinking of You – (Just to Keep in Touch) 8-26-2025
4. Marsha Boykin had foot/ankle surgery in Dallas on August 26. She'll be out of commission for 3 months.



5. Joyce Watts fell and hit the back of her head and was hospitalized in Odessa. She is recuperating at home now here in Midland.

SUPPORT RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

Though the main emphasis for TRTF is the donation collection happening in October and NOVEMBER, now prompting members to reach out to current teachers regarding Grant/Scholarship funds available through TRTF. Deadline is Jan. 9, 2026.

Applicants must be paying into TRS. Selected recipients awarded \$1,000 to use for materials, personnel, etc. to enhance/support students' learning. GO TO: www.trtf.org/initiatives for information, examples, and applications.

(No MISD/area teachers awarded funds in the last two school years. Let's communicate!)

"Many former grant and scholarship recipients are connected to TRTA members through family or friendship. Please continue to help us spread the word about these opportunities." TRTF website

TRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

So....what benefits are available for TRTA members? In addition to the benefit of TRTA working for all its members in the legislature, there are endorsed benefits and discounts available to TRTA members. TRTA members now have access to thousands of discounts through a partnership with TRTA, AMBA, and Passport On the trta.org website, under "Benefits" there is a YouTube video in the bottom right corner of the YouTube videos under "Boscov's Travel Benefit" that explains and highlights ALL the endorsed TRTA benefits and discounts. Play the video to watch and listen to all the possibilities, including insurance, lodging, entertainment, appliances, clothing, and much more. Visit myAMBAdiscounts.com; when registering use the access code 'ambasavers'. The newest sponsored benefit is through TRTA Unique Journeys Presented by Boscov's Travel. If you are interested in traveling, this could be the way to go! This is one of numerous sponsored benefits. Be sure to also read The Inside Line, TRTA's free e-newsletter, The VOICE is a quarterly publication mailed exclusively for TRTA members. The VOICE is full of the latest legislative, retirement and benefits information. Use and enjoy TRTA benefits which are available for all MARSP/TRTA members.

Paula Knight

MARSP Membership Benefits



MARSP MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We currently have 218 MARSP members for the 2025-2026 year. This is a great start, and let's keep the numbers increasing! 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 passage of the Social Security Fairness Act (the repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision, or WEP, and the Government Pension Offset, or 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.

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 for or add the following members:

1. Donna Kirby - new phone #, 528-4529
2. Kathleen Anderson - delete her email address
3. Brune Torres - new phone #, 210-8059
4. Ricardo Torres - new phone #, 210-8058
5. **New Member:** Melanie Jones, 2313 Stanolind Ave., Midland, TX 79705
rwmkjones80@gmail.com, 661-7085, 12/27, 2025
6. **New Member:** Becky Baty, 3710 Oakmont Dr., Midland, TX 79707, batty02@gmail.com, 296-1389, 7/27, 2025
7. **New Member:** Paula Pratt, 1005 W. Pine Ave., Midland, TX 79705, paulapratt2@gmail.com, 409-658-5080, 7/11, 2015



President's Note



Dear MARSP Members

Our August 21st, our meeting with Tim Lee and district TRTA members was extremely eye opening. Our federal information was about how the newly passed bill, regarding tax cuts, affects retired teachers. Social Security recipients will receive cuts in what they will owe in federal taxes. Tim Lee and other federal legislators are in Washington trying to work for our newly acquired SSI benefits. While state legislators have set up TRS to have difficulty maintaining our actuarial soundness. We must continue to work with legislators to keep TRS sound and growing. I cannot imagine being retired and not a member of TRTA. Please continue talking to your fellow retirees about the benefits of our organization and the information that we have privy to regarding legislative updates. Please plan to attend our next meeting on October 2 and we look forward to seeing you.

Thank You.

Deborah Jordan

President

MARSP 25-26 BOARD



**NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 2ND,
11:30 AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL!**