

TRTA's Information and Protective Services Committee



Quick Blips



Fake Debt Collectors: The Federal Trade Commission has shut down two debt collectors and three companies charging them with false threats and other illegal collection tactics. Your rights are spelled out in the “Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.” (Frank Dorman, FTC Office of Public Affairs). Ask the caller for his or her name, company, street address, and telephone number. Tell the person you will not discuss anything with him or her unless you are provided with a “validation notice,” which includes the amount of debt, the name of the creditor you owe and your rights under the FDCPA. Write the debt collector a letter (keep a copy) and demand that they stop contacting you. (FTC “Fake Debt Collectors.” 2.2012)

ZIKA Virus: The Center for Disease Control and Radio Broadcast offers these guidelines for avoiding the Zika virus: (1) Avoid traveling to areas where there are Zika virus outbreaks. (2) Take steps to avoid mosquito bites: (a) wear long sleeved shirts and long pants (b) stay in air conditioned places with screens on the windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out (c) Use EPA registered insect repellants, and (d) stay away from mosquito breeding places like open containers of water.



The Texas Department of State Health Services reports 96 cases of Zika in Texas as of 11:00 am, Aug. 5. The first death in Texas occurred in Harris County. An infant died on Aug. 9. The most common symptoms include fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis. Zika is associated with microcephaly in infants. Prevention of mosquito bites is a priority because West Nile season is approaching. Visit <www.cdc.gov/Zika> or <www.texaszika.org>.

CAR THIEVES: Car thieves are stealing cars by using software that manipulates the cars. Thieves are also stealing customers’ gas card numbers without having to show up! Investigators are asking purchases to go inside to pay with a credit card or use cash. [Fox News Live. Aug. 10,2016. 10:57 am.]

It's always a scam

- when the “IRS” demands money or money orders. Hang up and report the call.
- When served with a bench warrant demanding you pay with Pay Pal.



FBI Director James Comey says there will be a terrorist diaspora out of Syria like we have never seen before.

Radicalized IS attacks are imminent in the US. Attacks will be of greater magnitude than that of Brussels or Paris. The blunt warning was issued on July 28, 2016.

Amarillo Globe-News. A-5

What Can You Do about the TRS-Care Shortfall



The Board of Trustees adopted changes that include (a) increased deductibles (b) increased out-of-pocket maximum expense (c) convenience fees for local pharmacy drug fills (d) new rules on Medicare D.

Read TRTA’s updated Legislative Training Initiative at TRTA.org. Contact your state senator and legislator, using proper etiquette. TRTA has 81,000 members. TRS-Care covers 260,000 lives. Urge those retirees, who are not TRTA members, to join us in the battle of our lives.

Send a handwritten letter to the candidates participating in the November general election in your area. Tell them what will happen if your health premiums tripled or if your benefits were reduced. Tell them how they can help you by supporting additional funding to the TRS-Care program. [See the 2nd quarter VOICE for month by month legislative activities that you can participate in.] [See TRTA.org for more information. Read Tim Lee’s *Inside Line* for the latest information. Read it at TRTA.org or sign up for it to be delivered to your e-mail box.

I&PS Committee

Members / Contributors*

- *Judy Hart, Chairman (Dist. 16)
- *Dr. Amy Jo Baker (Dist. 20)
- Ron Gawryszewski (Dist. 12)
- Jose Lugo (Dist. 1)
- Dr. Thalia Matherson (Dist. 10)

