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The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH!

BY TIM LEE

Since 2009, the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) Board of Directors has designated November as Foundation Month! Foundation Month is an opportunity for districts, local units, and individual members of TRTA to learn more about the charitable activities of the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF), TRTA's partner organization. TRTF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to provide resources for Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) annuitants, as well as active and beginning teachers.

Thanks to generous donations from TRTA members, TRTF raised \$567,460 in 2020. These contributions support the Foundation's philanthropic programs: "A Helping Hand," the Disaster Relief Fund, Classroom Assistance Grants, and Beginning Teacher Scholarships. Additionally, TRTF supports the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund to provide long-term revenue for "A Helping Hand."

TRTF has distributed \$800,500 to educators of the past, present, and future all across Texas since 2008!

TRTF is also using Foundation Month to conduct its annual fundraising campaign. Our annual appeal is on page 12. Your donation means a retiree in need receives much-needed help to get back on their feet or a classroom teacher gets money to fund a unique project or learning platform for their students. It means a first-year educator has funds to buy supplies for their very first classroom!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH!

Please consider making your end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donation to TRTF. You may use the donation card found on the back of the bulletin and the enclosed postage-paid envelope to send checks or money orders, or visit www.trtf.org/donate to make a contribution online via credit card.

Read more about the amazing things Texas educators have accomplished together through TRTF. Thank you so much for reaching into your hearts to help your fellow retirees and active teachers.

TRTF Programs Overview

"A Helping Hand," which launched in 2010, provides public education retirees with charitable assistance for a one-time special need or other short-term hardship. Recipients include anyone who is receiving or is eligible to receive an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).

Since its inception, TRTF has awarded more than \$210,000 in aid to over 210 recipients. Please email help@trtf.org if you or someone you know needs an application for assistance.

Classroom Assistance Grants are awarded to public-school teachers who demonstrate a daily commitment to public education and Texas children through the creation of programs, events, or other learning platforms.

Since 2008, TRTF has awarded \$132,000 in grants to 264 recipients. TRTF will provide thirty \$750 grants to public school teachers in Texas in 2022. The deadline to apply is February 25, 2022.

The Beginning Teacher Scholarship awards funds to recent college graduates who will be teaching for the first time in the fall of 2022. These funds are awarded to reimburse applicants for certifications and test results and to help purchase classroom materials during their first year of teaching. A scholarship applicant must be referred by a TRTA member.

TRTF will award twenty \$750 scholarships in 2022. The deadline to apply is February 25, 2022.

Disaster Relief Fund

In February 2021, winter storm Uri struck Texas, causing serious damage to homes and other belongings throughout the state. More than 4.5 million homes and businesses were without power for days, and more than 100 Texans tragically lost their lives.

Thanks to generous donations from TRTA members, the TRTF Disaster Relief Fund raised more than \$165,000 to assist 660 retired school employees with recovering from this natural disaster. TRTF provided grants to help repair flood damage caused by broken pipes, replace food that

was spoiled when the electricity went out, and pay for unexpected costs incurred when retirees were displaced from their homes.

To date, the Disaster Relief Fund has provided more than \$375,000 in aid to over 1,100 active and retired school personnel. TRTF will be prepared should another disaster strike and be ready to offer aid at a moment's notice.

Buda Music Teacher Wins Classroom Grant, Teaches Students to Play Piano

Misty Martinez is a music teacher at Carpenter Hill Elementary in Buda and a 2021-2022 TRTF Classroom Assistance Grant winner. The program helps teachers improve the learning environment for their students by giving \$750 towards projects, learning platforms, software, or other materials they might not be able to afford otherwise.

With the grant, Martinez purchased a classroom set of the "Way Cool Keyboarding 4 Kids" piano books for each of her 2nd through 5th grade students.

"This book is an excellent resource because it has step-by-step instructions for students with little to no piano experience that is not overwhelming for a beginner," she said. Martinez added that the book "includes beginner finger placements and dexterity practice with pictures, before adding the notes and staff. After the notes are introduced on the staff and lines, both hands have part assignments while the student reads the sheet music."

Martinez said, "As you can imagine, the coronavirus pandemic brought so many new challenges into classrooms across the world this year; yet with the help of TRTF, our children have not only been supported through these challenges but have also been able to dive into a new journey that many did not have the opportunity to ever experience before!"

Since 2008, TRTF has awarded \$132,000 to 264 public school teachers in Texas. In 2022, TRTF will provide thirty \$750 grants to educators across the state.

"We are so excited! Thank you TRTF!" ★





TRTF TUTOR PROGRAM TUTOR RECRUITMENT

TRTF Tutor Program:

Due to recent legislative funding and policy changes, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) now offers **IN-PERSON** and online tutoring opportunities with Texas school districts in partnership with the Texas Education Agency (TEA)!

TRTF is now an approved vendor serving Texas school districts through TEA's High Impact Tutoring Program. If you are a retiree who is interested in helping our Texas students recover from COVID-19 learning loss and putting some extra money in your pocket, please reach out to us today!

In October 2020, TRTF launched its first ever Tutor Program with our corporate partner and online platform, JoinKnack.com.

As we enter the 2021-2022 school year, the need for both in-person and online tutors has grown exponentially and is a necessary component of learning recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 Enroll as a Tutor Now

TRTF is now an approved vendor serving Texas school districts through TEA's High Impact Tutoring Program. You can earn extra income as a tutor! Visit trtf.joinknack.com to register with our system.

2 Help Students, Help Schools, Get Paid!

Paid tutor positions with our Texas ISD's are plentiful and we need you to sign up! You can help students and schools while making additional income, **with no penalty to your TRS annuity!**

3 No Limit of Hours

Your skills are in demand! With a few exceptions, there is no limit to the number of hours you may work per month. *Contact TRS if you are working in more than one position, retired after January 1, 2021, or are a disability retiree.*

★ PRESIDENT'S LINE

By Leroy DeHaven, 2020-2022 TRTA President

All Aboard the TRTA Express! That was the call last year, and you answered. Despite a continuing pandemic, TRTA had a successful year. That's because of the dedication and hard work of our TRTA members!

Our members embraced technology that allowed TRTA to continue its work. We have been "zooming" all over the state! Communication from the state to the districts down to the local units has been fantastic. A big thank you to everyone, but especially to our state, district, and local officers who stepped up and led the way. The staff also has worked tirelessly to support us in all our efforts.



The regular 87th Legislative Session was a roller coaster ride. TRTA was able to get several bills passed that are beneficial to TRS retirees. Even though TRTA was unable to get a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), we were successful in getting a supplemental payment passed in the second special session. Phone calls, letters, and text messages from our members played an important role in getting our priorities known. TRS retirees have tremendous support in the Legislature, and TRTA will continue to work for a COLA. Our legislative team is already making plans for the next regular legislative session.

Our membership has remained strong during this pandemic. At this time, we have more than 81,000 members. We need to climb above 100,000 to advocate loudly and clearly for a much-needed COLA!

This past year has required us to make many changes in the way TRTA operates. As we encountered obstacles due to COVID-19, TRTA adjusted and continued to advocate for its members.

Because of some of the challenges we faced, the Board saw a need for some changes in the TRTA bylaws. The Organizational Affairs Committee is working on bylaws recommendations, which will be presented at the 2022 Convention in Dallas.

TRTA is an outstanding organization with members that give tirelessly of their time and talents to preserve and protect our TRS benefits, not only for current retirees but also future retirees. It is my privilege and honor to serve as your President. We have an amazing leader in Executive Director Tim Lee, and he has put together an outstanding staff that is professional, creative, and always willing to help. Please thank Tim and the staff when you have a chance.

The TRTA Express is moving down the track to our 2022 Convention on April 11-13 in Dallas. I hope to see you there! ✨

Age Well Live Well

BE HEALTHY.

"Regular exercise and a healthy diet helps ensure I can do the things I enjoy."



Learn how to stay healthy and active at www.AgeWellLiveWell.org

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

The drive for the 2021-2022 TRTA membership year is in full swing! So far, more than 81,000 members have joined or renewed since the new year began on July 1. Renewing now ensures that you will never miss an urgent update or issue of *The VOICE*. It also means that you will maintain your eligibility for current and future TRTA member benefits. Most importantly, your membership means that you support TRTA's efforts on behalf of all Texas public-school retirees.

TRTA is the largest association in the nation dedicated solely to the interests of public education retirees. We are your voice in the Texas Legislature! Our accomplishments during the 87th Legislative Session and the two called special sessions this summer would not have occurred without your steadfast support and participation.

Members of TRTA have worked together for nearly 70 years to protect and improve benefits and retirement security for those who dedicated their careers to Texas children. Collaboration is key! There is undeniable strength in numbers. A few years ago, TRTA set a goal of reaching 100,000 members. We have come very close to this goal, reaching as high as 98,000 members. Could this be the year we cross that threshold? With your help, we believe we can and will!

If you have renewed your dues already, we thank you! Now, we are asking you to invite one friend, former colleague, or active teacher to join, too! If you have not renewed yet, please do so today! The quickest way to renew is to visit www.trta.org and click on the Renew Now button. Not sure if your membership needs to be renewed? Just check the back cover of this publication. Your membership status and ID number can be found on your mailing label.

Your membership matters more than ever. While we had many achievements in the Texas Legislature, there is much more to be done on both the state and national levels.



Your pension fund needs to be protected and its path to actuarial soundness maintained. We are still fighting for a much-needed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Affordable, quality health care is still a priority. The inequity caused by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) must be resolved so you can receive the Social Security benefits you have earned.

Let's keep fighting together for the retired public-school employees of Texas! Help us get more members on the TRTA Express by helping them join or renew your membership dues today! ★

Forever Book Campaign

The TRTA State Public Relations Committee is instituting the Forever Book Campaign. This campaign has been designed to reward a local unit that submits pictures showing the distribution of books beginning September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Campaign Guidelines

1. Pictures are to be taken when books are donated. Remember: No images of children's faces are allowed.
2. Share your photos by posting them on your local unit and district Facebook page, the TRTA Facebook page, TRTA Twitter feed, and TRTA mobile app, as well as the TRTA Public Relations Committee Facebook page.
3. Names of local units submitting photos will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 prize. The funds are to be used in the purchase of books for the local unit's Children's Book Project.
4. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2022.

Contact your local unit and district second vice-president for more information.



ALL ABOARD THE TRTA EXPRESS: JOIN US IN DALLAS IN APRIL 2022!

TRTA members are sure to have a joyous, educational, and motivating reunion in 2022, when they attend the 68th TRTA Convention in Dallas, Texas!

The convention will be held April 11–13, 2022 at the Hilton Anatole on 2201 North Stemmons Freeway. The group rate is \$189 per night (excluding tax) for a single, double, triple, or quad room. Parking is offered at a discounted rate of \$5 per night for hotel guests only.

To book your hotel reservation, please visit <https://book.passkey.com/e/50225667>. This link can also be found on the TRTA home page (www.trta.org). Online reservations through the link are the preferred method to guarantee that you will receive the TRTA discounted rate.

Please be advised when booking that the hotel will offer you the option to add the resort fee of \$25 per night to your reservation. This fee includes amenities such as spa services and is not necessary for most convention attendees. You may either skip or opt out of the resort fee to avoid being charged. The hotel booking policy is that a first-night deposit is required upon booking and cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will forfeit one night's room and tax fees.

If you wish to call the central reservation line to book your room by phone, you may call 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) and reference code "TRT." You should also mention the group name and dates of the conference. This method is the least preferred, as booking through the secure link provides the highest level of accuracy to reserve within the TRTA block.

A complete schedule is not available at this time; however, for travel planning purposes, convention activities will begin on Monday, April 11 and conclude once all association business has been completed on Wednesday, April 13. Please stay tuned for more detailed information.

Built in 1979 by one of Dallas' top real estate development families, the Anatole houses more than 1,000 pieces of art, making it the largest hotel art and antique collection in the U.S.

Part museum, part hotel, the art collection at the Anatole can be enjoyed a number of different ways:

- Top Art Treasures is a walk around the hotel showcasing the most iconic artifacts in the collection;
- One Mile Art Walk is designed for the fitness-aware guest; and
- Art Dine Around is, you guessed it, an art and food experience.

We hope you will join us in April as we board the TRTA Express to Dallas! ✨



Art at the Hilton Anatole

For more than twenty years, the Hilton Anatole has been home to over a thousand rare and unusual treasures from the collections of Trammell and Margaret Crow. One-of-a-kind works of art, many that once graced the royal palaces of kings, emperors, and czars from Japan, China, India, and Southeast Asia—dating back as far as the fifth century BCE—now adorn the hotel's entryways and embellish its walls. The newest addition to the collection is a sculpture that we cannot touch, but it seems important for us to know of its existence. In the fall of 2011, the Hilton Anatole's staff unveiled Nebula (pictured above left)—a structure made of ten miles of aircraft cable, 1,780 pulleys, and over 4,500 amber crystals—floating above the redesigned Atrium II space in a wavelike dance.



WE WON FULL FUNDING FOR THE TRS TRUST FUND.

WE WON FULL FUNDING FOR TRS-CARE.

WE WON A SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED TRS SUNSET BILL.

WE WON A SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT!



**THANK YOU TRTA MEMBERS FOR YOUR HARD WORK
AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT! THANK YOU TEXAS LEGISLATURE FOR
WORKING WITH US TO SECURE A SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT
FOR ELIGIBLE TRS RETIREES!**

**MEMBERS, OUR WORK NOW SHIFTS TO CAPITOL HILL IN
WASHINGTON, D.C. IT'S TIME TO FIX THE WINDFALL ELIMINATION
PROVISION (WEP) AND GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET (GPO)!**

OUR EYES ALSO TURN TO THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION: COLA 2023!

**TRTA MEMBERS, PLEASE GIVE THIS BULLETIN TO A FELLOW TRS
RETIREE AND ASK THEM TO JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP!**



RETIREEES TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IN JANUARY 2022

BY TIM LEE



When we last reported on the outcome of the Texas Retired Teachers Association's (TRTA) legislative advocacy after the regular 87th Legislative Session concluded, we knew members would be disappointed that a much-needed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) did not pass.

While TRTA achieved many great outcomes by the end of May 2021 – including a bill that adds state funding to the pension trust fund, the TRS Sunset bill, a TRS-Care “golden ticket” bill, two return-to-work bills, two tutoring bills, and a Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) reform resolution – financial relief for Texas public education retirees was still weighing heavily on the minds of our legislative team and members.

As we said earlier this summer, the Legislature has told retirees for many years that it would pass a COLA when the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) could pay off its unfunded liabilities within 31 years. The 31-year marker is in statute, an indicator commonly referred to as “actuarial soundness.”

TRS, at the time, had just reached that threshold, thanks to the hard work done during the 86th Legislative Session in 2019 through Senate Bill 12. SB 12 provided additional state funding to the pension fund, as promised, and the stock market was profitable for the system after a brief lull at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Retirees were excited about the prospect of receiving a COLA. Any TRS retiree who has retired since September 1, 2004 has NEVER received a COLA! However, leadership in the Texas Legislature decided that it wasn't the right time,

expressing concerns about the fiscal stability of the fund going forward.

TRS retirees were, understandably, upset, confused, and weary. Living off the same modest income for seventeen or more years has taken a toll on our retirees who struggle to make ends meet, pay for medical needs, and lost additional substitute teaching income when the pandemic shut down schools across Texas.

In the last issue of *The VOICE*, TRTA made a plea to Governor Greg Abbott to add a COLA or other benefit increase to the call for the special session. The pleas of our members were heard loud and clear, and a rollercoaster summer of legislative activity began on July 8.

Specifically, Governor Abbott's proclamation for the special session called for “legislation similar to House Bill 3507 . . . relating to a ‘thirteenth check’ or supplemental payment of benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

During a special session, only items added to the call by the Governor may be addressed. Special sessions are limited to a maximum of 30 days, and TRTA knew once the Governor's priority bills were considered, it could end at any time.

Almost immediately, longtime TRTA supporter Senator Joan Huffman (R – Houston) filed Senate Bill 7, while Representative Glenn Rogers (R – Mineral Wells) filed the companion bill House Bill 85. The bills would provide for a one-time supplemental payment for Texas public education retirees who retired on or before December 31, 2020, not to exceed \$2,400 if passed.





RETIREES TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IN JANUARY 2022

Senator Huffman also made clear that the funds to pay for the supplemental check would be provided by general revenue, not the TRS pension fund, allowing the system to remain actuarially sound.

While progress on these bills moved quickly during the first special session, passing their respective assigned Senate and House committees unanimously as well as the full Senate, actions in the Texas House stalled because a quorum of Representatives could not be reached.

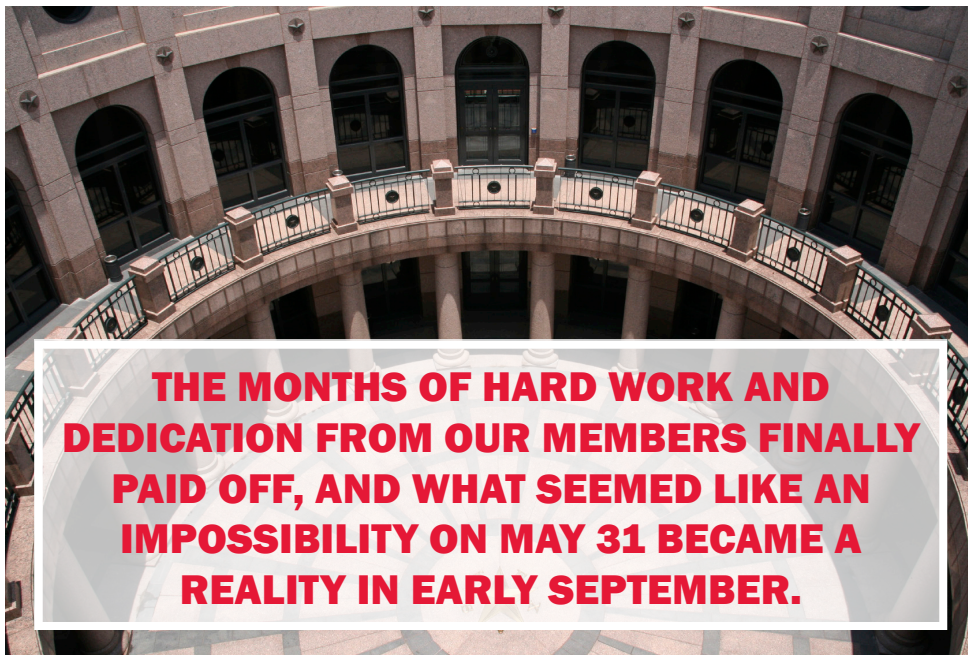
While this was outside the control of TRTA, we remained focused on the task at hand, and our Capitol team continued to advocate daily and garner bipartisan support for bills that would give the best benefit enhancement possible for retired educators. The special session ended on August 6 with no further progress on either bill.

As expected, however, Governor Abbott called a second special session, including the supplemental payment for TRS retirees as a priority once again. By August 10, a new version of Huffman's Senate Bill 7 passed unanimously through the Texas Senate and had made its way to the House Appropriations Committee by August 23.

During the late evening of August 27, the bill passed the House unanimously in a moment that seemed to be building all day with anticipation as House members shouted "Aye!" when the vote on SB 7 was called. SB 7 then made its way to Governor Abbott's desk to be signed.

House Bill 5, the supplemental appropriations bill filed during the second special session, included the \$701.1 million from general revenue needed to pay for the check. HB 5 passed both the House and the Senate on September 2.

The months of hard work and dedication from our members finally paid off, and what seemed like an impossibility on May 31 became a reality in early September.



THE MONTHS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION FROM OUR MEMBERS FINALLY PAID OFF, AND WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN IMPOSSIBILITY ON MAY 31 BECAME A REALITY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT Q&A

Who is Eligible to Receive the Supplemental Payment?

The one-time supplemental payment will be paid to TRS retirees who retired on or before December 31, 2020.

When Will the Supplemental Payment Be Made?

The payment is expected to be made in January 2022, no later than January 31. This decision was made based on tax issues that impact TRS members. TRS will soon announce when and how the payment will be made. We will keep you all posted as information becomes available.

What Will Be the Amount of the Payment?

SB 7 authorizes a supplemental payment to retired educators equal to the lesser of a retiree's current monthly annuity or \$2,400 dollars. For example, if you receive \$1,000 per month in your annuity, you will receive \$1,000. If you receive more than \$2,400 per month in your annuity, the payment will be capped at \$2,400.

Will There Be Another Supplemental Payment to Retirees in 2022?

No, the bill authorizes the payment only one time, and that payment will be made before the end of January 2022. No other bills were passed that would authorize a second supplemental payment in 2022.

What About a COLA? When Will Retirees Receive One?

The TRTA leadership and legislative team has heard from many members and supporters about the progress of a COLA for TRS retirees. Our members have turned every stone and advocated on their own behalf and others to achieve this goal. It's easy to feel disappointed, frustrated, and exhausted that a COLA has not yet been passed.

TRTA will continue the fight for a COLA for TRS retirees. We believe passing a COLA for TRS retirees is the right thing to do, and we will keep working towards that goal until we accomplish it.

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RETIREES TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT IN JANUARY 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENT Q&A

The support for retired public educators is still there, and we must harness it. While the supplemental payment may not be what every retiree wanted, it will provide some financial relief, especially to those who are struggling with lower incomes.

The TRS pension fund remains stable and is flourishing. Additional legislative action cannot be taken to pursue a COLA until the next regular session that begins in January 2023. Only the Legislature can approve a COLA or other benefit enhancement, and they are not expected to convene again until that time.

Does this mean we sit around and wait for another year to pass? No! TRTA's advocacy is never done. We know when we keep fighting, we win.

As we saw during the regular session, improved retirement security and flexibility in retirement to earn additional income are years-long battles we have fought and finally won. TRTA and its members pushed for these bills to be introduced and made a lot of headway at a time when we were told the state's priorities were the pandemic, winter storm recovery, and the state's electricity grid.

Without our constant vigilance, our issues would have been swept aside in favor of these major dilemmas. We have tremendous support in the Legislature, with hundreds of bill co-sponsors and legislators speaking out on behalf of retirees throughout the regular and special sessions.

TRTA is a strong, unified organization. Our sole focus is on improving your retirement security! Let's keep the focus on achieving this goal in 2023. ★

TRTA District Presidents Board the TRTA Express in Pflugerville

TRTA's 20 district presidents met in Pflugerville July 12-15 for their annual District Presidents Leadership Training Conference (DPLTC). This TRTA event was the first in-person gathering held since the start of the pandemic in 2020 and marked the beginning of a new and exciting year for TRTA's leaders.

The district presidents serve two-year terms that coincide with the TRTA officers. District presidents serve as vital connections between the state office and the organization's 250 local units. During the conference, district presidents received comprehensive training about their roles as leaders and mentors in the organization and strengthened their relationships with one another.

Day one began with President Leroy DeHaven welcoming everyone aboard the TRTA Express. District presidents had a "Live and In-Person" meet-and-greet session hosted by District Presidents Council Chair Terri Navrkal. Following the Board of Directors meeting, special motivational speaker and humorist Sally Baskey left the conference attendees smiling from ear-to-ear. The day concluded with a dinner.

During day two of the conference, attendees heard from each TRTA state officer on a variety of topics and were introduced to the TRTA Family Reunion concept.

The TRTA Family Reunion encourages districts and local units to celebrate the opportunity to join in fellowship once again after months of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Creative meeting ideas where members can catch up with old friends and embrace new ones include hosting fun events with prizes using board games, bingo, dominoes, or cards or providing a coffee bar. The TRTA Family Reunion theme carried throughout the remainder of day two and concluded with a family-style dinner.

On day three of the conference, district presidents set their 2022 spring and fall conference dates and then visited the State Capitol in Austin, where they met with Representatives and Senators and thanked them for their efforts to provide financial relief to TRS retirees during the special session. The district presidents also "zoomed" with Texas congressional leaders about efforts to pass legislation to modify the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) in Washington, D.C.

The presidents are prepared and excited to face the challenges of the coming year as COVID-19 continues. TRTA is grateful for their active participation and looks forward to working with them to make our association more cohesive and stronger than ever! ★





Help the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation
reach their goal of \$100,000!
DONATE TODAY!

Since 2008, TRTA members have helped 210 retirees get back on their feet, nearly 500 active and retired educators recover from damages due to Hurricane Harvey, 264 classroom teachers implement innovative projects and learning methods for their students, and 207 future educators pursue their passion for teaching. In 2021, TRTF also provided grants to over 660 retirees who were negatively affected by winter storm Uri in February.

More than \$800,500 has been given to educators of the past, present, and future in Texas!

Your donation means so many things, but changing a life for the better is the ultimate result. Your donation means that a retiree living on less than \$800 per month can receive much-needed hearing aids, dental work, food, or pay for their Medicare premium!

Your donation means that a classroom teacher will teach her students how to do CPR, grow food, learn how to play the piano, or even write and publish their own dual-language books!

Your donation means that another student who grew to love education because of the positive influence of a teacher will become an educator themselves.

Together, our charitable programs ("A Helping Hand," Disaster Relief Fund, Classroom Assistance Grants, and Beginning Teacher Scholarships), along with the Lehr-Pritchard Endowment Fund, keep the compassion and dedication to education alive!

If every TRTA member gave \$10, we could raise an astonishing \$900,000!

You have helped us change many lives in the past. Now help us change the future today, tomorrow, and every day! Please make your tax-deductible donation to TRTF today!

This is our annual appeal. Using *The VOICE* for our appeal saves thousands of dollars in postage, so that thousands more can be dedicated to our charitable programs. Please use the card found on the back page and enclosed postage paid envelope to send in your donation or donate online at www.trtf.org/donate.

Thank you for helping us change lives every day!

With your donation, we can provide financial assistance to 35+ retirees in need, provide urgent financial relief to educators hit by a widespread disaster, award scholarships to first-year educators who will carry on the Texas education legacy, give classroom grants to educators with innovative projects that motivate the students in our Texas public classrooms, and change lives while promoting a positive image of public education.





The VOICE

Send address changes to:
Texas Retired Teachers Association
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701-1957
1.800.880.1650 | www.trta.org

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) helps educators of the past, present, and future through "A Helping Hand," Classroom Assistance Grants, Beginning Teacher Scholarships and the Disaster Relief Fund.

Designate your fall local unit meeting to increase awareness of the Foundation's programs.

Contact us at 1.800.880.1650 or visit www.trtf.org to learn more.

Yes, I want to help! ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$30 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Check # _____ Date _____ Amount \$ _____

Donate online at www.trtf.org/donate or call Sarah Richardson at 1.800.880.1650 to make a donation over the phone.

Thank you for your support.

TRTF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please enclose your tax-deductible donation with this card in the envelope provided.
Your generosity is greatly appreciated. 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 220 • Austin, TX 78701