

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION
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The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



Fall into the Giving Season
with TRTF

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH!

BY TIM LEE

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to provide resources for retired TRS annuitants, as well as active and beginning teachers. It is the charitable partner organization of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA).

The Foundation manages five charitable programs, "A Helping Hand," Disaster Relief Fund, Classroom Assistance Grants, Beginning Teacher Scholarships, and the Tutor Program, as well as an endowment fund. Since 2008, more than \$850,000 has been given to educators across Texas to better their lives.

November is Foundation Month, a time to share positive news about how you and your fellow retirees are helping TRTF impact the future of education every day! TRTF is also using this time to conduct its annual fundraising campaign. Please see our annual appeal letter on page 11 of *The VOICE* and learn how you can donate to TRTF.

Please consider making your end-of-the-year, tax-deductible donation to TRTF. You may use the donation card found on page 12 of *The VOICE* and mail it using the enclosed postage-paid envelope, or you may donate online at www.trtf.org/donate.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

In June, the TRTF Board of Trustees met in Austin for two days to discuss revisions to the organization's bylaws, brainstorm fundraising ideas, and update the Foundation's charitable programs.

The Beginning Teacher Scholarship program will no longer require applicants to be referred by a TRTA member. Additionally, the program has been expanded to include teachers in their first year, as well as college seniors. TRTF will award twenty \$750 scholarships for 2023-2024.

The Disaster Relief program has removed the words "widespread" and "natural" from the guidelines. This program assists public education employees and retirees who require emergency financial assistance for a short-term hardship due to an unforeseen disaster.

Grant Winner Spotlight

Corrine Thompson (pictured below with TRTA Multimedia Specialist Roy Varney) is a Gifted and Talented teacher at Mildred Junior High in Corsicana. With her grant, she invited Jiaan Powers (pictured above)—a professional storyteller experienced with youth—to conduct a workshop on the art of oral tradition with her students. As a result, her students created a portfolio of stories to share with audiences. Pictured above is a sample of the portfolio along with supplies that the students will use to complete the project.

You can learn more about the event by watching the video after November 1, 2022 at www.trtf.org/initiatives.



TRTF will award thirty \$750 grants for the 2023-2024 school year to Texas public school teachers who, on a daily basis, demonstrate commitment to public education and Texas children through the creation of programs, events, or other learning platforms. Applicants may download an application from the TRTF website. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Beginning Teacher Scholarships

TRTF will award twenty \$750 scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year to college seniors who are earning an undergraduate degree at a Texas university or college, or first-year public-school educators. Applicants may download an application from the TRTF website. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

"A Helping Hand"

"A Helping Hand" launched in 2010 to provide 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, "A Helping Hand" has awarded more than \$227,000 in aid to retirees for urgent needs such as medical and dental bills, home and auto repairs, groceries, prescriptions, and hearing aids.

If you are a member of TRTA and you (or someone you know) need(s) assistance, please contact your local chapter president or Foundation representative. For additional information, please call 1.800.880.1650 or email help@trtf.org.

Disaster Relief Fund

The Disaster Relief Fund assists public education employees and retirees who require emergency financial assistance for a short-term hardship due to a disaster. Recipients include anyone who is receiving or is eligible to receive benefits from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). The Disaster Relief Fund has awarded more than \$375,000 to 1,100 active and retired school employees since 2017.

Meet the 2022-2023 TRTF Officers!

Mary Nell Short, President. Mary Nell is a member of Texarkana-Bowie Co RTA in District 8. She has served on the Board of Trustees since 2017 and as President since 2019. Mary Nell is also the Chair of the Classroom Assistance Grant Committee.

Carla Meuth, Vice-President. Carla is a member of Fort Bend-Harris RE in District 4. She has served on the Board of Trustees since 2017 and as Vice-President since 2021. Additionally, Carla is Chair of the Fundraising Committee and a member of the Beginning Teacher Scholarship Committee.

Mollye Long, Secretary/Treasurer. Mollye is a member of Gillespie Co RTA in District 13. She has served on the Board of Trustees since 2021 and as Secretary/Treasurer since April 2022. Mollye is a member of the "A Helping Hand" Committee, as well as the Classroom Assistance Grant Committee.

NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH!

Dear TRTA members and friends,

November is a very important month for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF). It's a chance to raise awareness of the good each charitable program accomplishes and an opportunity to raise funds that will help us continue to better the lives of retired, active, and beginning Texas teachers.

I became a member of TRTA in 2004 and am a member of the Texarkana-Bowie County RTA. I have served in various capacities at local, district, and state levels. While serving as a district president, I became aware of the work of TRTF. When asked to join the Board in 2017, I accepted immediately because I knew that was where I wanted to focus my energies.

Since TRTF is the charitable arm of TRTA, I hoped I could be even more helpful to our retirees by serving on its Board. I have had the pleasure of serving as Board President since 2019.

The grant and scholarship programs, "A Helping Hand," and Disaster Relief Fund, as well as our new Tutor Program, are what help us achieve our mission with visible outcomes. "A Helping Hand" is, by far, the most important program to help our retirees. Knowing our teachers have dedicated their lives and much of their money to their students and realizing that some of them retired to a life of poverty is heartbreaking.

The dedicated members of the TRTF Board are working continuously to provide avenues of assistance to both retirees and active educators. Our current programs, as well as any new endeavors that arise to fill the needs of our educators, grow the Foundation's legacy.

In addition to being Board President, I am Chair of the Classroom Assistance Grant Committee. It is so inspiring to read about the innovative programs that active teachers envision and to walk into classrooms and see them come to life. I am in awe of today's classroom teachers. They continually serve their students in so many capacities. Making the grant presentations in person really helps me to witness the Foundation's work in action.

Please think of the Foundation if you wish to make a memorial or to honor someone, and know your donation will help our fellow educators, whether they are retired or active. To learn more about TRTF, you can visit our website at www.trtf.org.

Mary Nell Short

Mary Nell Short, Texas Retired Teachers Foundation President



★ TEXAS ★

LEGISLATIVE
SESSION
2023

THE BIGGEST LEGISLATIVE EVENT FOR TRTA MEMBERS!

DAY AT THE CAPITOL

APRIL 11-12, 2023

April 11: Afternoon sessions & evening soiree
April 12: Main event on the Capitol lawn

TRTA will require an RSVP for all attendees to collect an accurate headcount for all events; however, the RSVP will not be available until January 2023. Please stay tuned to the 4th quarter issue of *The VOICE* and *The Inside Line* as announcements are made.

FOR DETAILS ON ROOM RESERVATIONS, PRICES, AND SHUTTLE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 10.

★ PRESIDENT'S LINE

By Marcy Cann, 2022–2024 TRTA President



Dear TRTA members,

I am excited to be able to serve for the next two years as State President and look forward to working with all of you. Below are a few updates to help us all prepare for an exciting and busy year.

Our TRTA year is beginning with JOY! We are meeting face-to-face again and working together to have a successful legislative year. This will be a long, strenuous session for all of us—and it will take all of us working together to accomplish our goals. Start now by contacting your Texas State Senator and Representative. When the 88th Legislature convenes on January 10, they will know you and understand your needs. Notes and personal contact are so important. Each of us must make ourselves known!



Retired educators face many challenges. Foremost on our list is securing our financial future. TRTA is pushing to get the Legislature to pass a substantial, meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees. We want to strengthen our local chapters and increase our membership. Call any retirees you know and ask them to join. Numbers matter!

As you may know, during TRTA's 68th Convention in Dallas in April, the House of Delegates voted on and passed a new set of TRTA Bylaws. We have fewer committees this year and each one has a goal of meeting with their district counterparts at least twice this biennium. We want to know your needs.

There are many exciting updates coming this year with submitting volunteer service hours, the Children's Book Project, the Magic of Membership (see article on page 5), an awesome TRTA Day at the Capitol on April 12, 2023, and so much more. Be sure to check out the Health and Safety Corner on the TRTA website. Here you will find an article about Health the first week of each month and Safety the third week of each month.



TRTA Executive Committee pictured left to right: Immediate Past President Leroy DeHaven, First Vice-President Ella Gauthier, President Marcy Cann, Second Vice-President Frana Patterson, and Secretary/Treasurer Terri Navrkal

Additionally, TRTA has renewed its partnership with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) to bring our members exclusive insurance plans that are effective and affordable, including dental and vision. Sandra Barber, State Member Benefits Committee Chair, has been working with the Executive Committee to be sure all members receive valuable information about the benefits TRTA endorses through

AMBA. AMBA will be sending monthly emails to all members highlighting a particular member benefit, so please keep an eye out for them.

You have a wonderful group of leaders. Your Executive Committee is pictured above. Your Board of Directors includes the Executive Committee, the District Presidents Council officers, and the Legislative Coordinator. You may view photos of the Board, District Presidents, and State Committee Chairs and members online at www.trta.org/trta-photo-gallery. Your TRTA officers and staff are here to serve you. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of you for allowing me to serve our organization in this vital leadership role. Members, please know that YOU are truly the keys to our success and growth! I thank you for your continued membership in and support of TRTA!

Marcy Cann, Texas Retired Teachers Association President

TRTA UPCOMING DEADLINES

Reports for the Children's Book Project, Volunteer Hours, Scholarships and Grants are due February 15 and March 1. Local reports are due to the District Committee Chair by February 15, 2023. District reports are due to the State Committee Representative (District Children's Book Project report due to the State Committee Chair) by March 1, 2023. Visit trta.org/member-resources to submit and monitor information online.



The drive for 2022-2023 membership began in July. We ended 2021-2022 with 94,257 members. So far, more than 80,270 have joined or renewed their membership. In 2023, TRTA will celebrate its 70th anniversary! Let us work hard to achieve our 100,000 members for that wonderful occasion. Share with fellow retirees the “magic” of membership in TRTA!

The local chapters listed below received monetary incentives for their recruitment efforts from March 1 through June 30. First place winners received \$300, while second place winners got \$200. Congratulations!

TRTA advocates for improved benefits for all education retirees and promotes the well-being of its members. This is the mission of TRTA—a very important one. TRTA is the only organization that advocates for retirees, giving us a united voice with our legislators. More members yield a louder voice!

It is important that legislators hear our message. As we safeguard our benefits and work toward a COLA, we must be informed. The State Legislative Committee develops priorities and talking points to support TRS retirees getting a raise. These two documents help members as they work with their individual legislators. With these documents, we all deliver the same message. Membership is more important than ever with the coming 88th Legislative Session. Visit www.trta.org/cola2023 to learn more.

As retirees, we look for opportunities to visit with others in a fun-filled environment. What better way to do this than to attend a local chapter meeting? Chapters provide opportunities for members to be energized and informed. Programs include downsizing for seniors, healthy living, and entertainment. Not only do chapters meet for fellowship, they plan opportunities for members

to learn about their city and its opportunities for staycations – museums, gardens, bayous, and Christmas lights, to name a few!

Retirees often look to be of service to others. Through chapters, retirees can give back to their communities. Chapter members volunteer at food banks, homeless shelters, schools, museums,

and more. Books are collected and distributed by retirees to students, many of whom cannot afford a book. Thanks to TRTA, retirees can earn additional income by registering to become tutors in the TRTF Tutor Program. This is win-win for all, helping students while earning additional income.

Through our benefits provider, AMBA, TRTA members have access to endorsed benefits and discounts. A list of the benefits is on page 6 of *The VOICE*. TRTA members also have access to Passport. Visit www.myAMBAdiscounts.com and click “Register Here” (for first-time users). Enter your email address, then enter code “ambasavers” as your activation code. Complete your profile and start saving! If you have any questions about the program or would like assistance locating a specific discount or vendor, please contact Passport at 1.800.410.4211 or support@passportunlimited.com.

Remember, your membership in TRTA is MAGIC! It brings with it a voice with our legislators, opportunities for fun, fellowship, and service projects, local chapter programs that energize and inform, and benefits that enrich our lives. Encourage your friends to become an integral part of the Magic of TRTA. Let us celebrate our 70th birthday with big wins—100,000 members and a COLA!

The members of the State Membership Committee are: Ella Gauthier, Chair (District 4), Shirley Boyd (District 12), Sharon Daugherty (District 14), Theresa Martin (District 3), Jackie McCowin (District 7), and Jane McGough (District 9).

BY ELLA GAUTHIER
2022-2024 TRTA First Vice-President

Bracket 1	Local Chapter	District
1st Place President's Percentage	Zapata Co RSEA	1
1st Place Tim's Totals	Ennis RSPA	10
2nd Place President's Percentage	Baylor Co ARSP	9
2nd Place Tim's Totals	Brazoria Co RTA	4
Bracket 2		
1st Place President's Percentage	Bell Co RSP	12
1st Place Tim's Totals	Houston-Harris Co RTA	4
2nd Place President's Percentage	Williamson Co RTA	13
2nd Place Tim's Totals	Midland ARSP	18
Bracket 3		
1st Place President's Percentage	New Braunfels RTA	13
1st Place Tim's Totals	Lamar-Delta RTSEA	8
2nd Place President's Percentage	Cypress-Fairbanks ARE	4
2nd Place Tim's Totals	Houston ART	4
Bracket 4		
1st Place President's Percentage	Dallas RTA	10
1st Place Tim's Totals	Arlington RSEA	11
2nd Place President's Percentage	Austin RTA	13
2nd Place Tim's Totals	Richardson RSP	10



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TRTA - Texas Retired Teachers Association





FIRST VOTE ON WEP LEGISLATION IN YEARS MAY BE A SIGN OF PROGRESS

BY TIM LEE

The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee met on September 20, 2022 to discuss markup of HR 82, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021. If passed by Congress, the bill would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The bill was voted out of committee “without recommendation” by voice vote.

Members, you may be asking yourselves, how can a bill that is not supported by a committee be a sign of good things to come? What many of our members may or may not know is that both WEP and GPO, which arbitrarily reduce the earned Social Security (SS) benefits of nearly 2 million retired public servants in the U.S., have not seen any true possibility for repeal or reform since their inception in the early 1980s.

The vote taken by the Ways and Means Committee on September 20 may very well be the first vote in the history of these two provisions in the nearly four decades since they became law.

HR 82 is a bill with more than three hundred cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. The push to resolve WEP and GPO has not seen this much traction in the decades that TRTA and its national coalition partners have been fighting against them. While the bill may have strong support with hundreds of cosponsors in the U.S. House, it does not have the same support in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal (D-MA), who led the committee hearing, set the sentiment that permeated much of the discussion about HR 82 and repeal of WEP and GPO in general.

Neal stressed that our hard-working public servants have legitimate concerns, but that the committee is also responsible for protecting the solvency of the federal SS program. While the WEP affects over 2 million retired public servants nationally, nearly 65 million people currently receive SS benefits. “Our duty is to ensure safeguarding the fiscal health of SS for all participants,” said Neal.

Representative Kevin Brady (R-TX), who many of our members may be familiar with, has filed legislation during this Congress and in previous sessions to reform the WEP. Brady’s opening comments about HR 82 echoed Neal’s. “Each month that we wait, millions of public servants lose money,” said Brady, adding that “they deserve equal treatment just as others are treated, without creating worse treatment for others.”

Brady said that there are two major reasons WEP reform has failed in previous sessions, including that a solution often goes beyond equal treatment and in many cases grants better treatment to those affected by WEP, essentially flipping the unfairness “off the few to the many.” The other reason is the associated cost of repeal.

Continued on page 8

FIRST VOTE ON WEP LEGISLATION IN YEARS MAY BE A SIGN OF PROGRESS



TRTA SUPPORTS THE FULL REPEAL OF THE WEP AND THE GPO.

Several members of the committee expressed concerns about HR 82 reducing the financial health of SS, which currently is projected to run out of funds by 2034. HR 82 has a projected cost of \$182 billion, according to Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), and would speed up the system's insolvency by at least one year.

The Social Security Actuary projects the cost of HR 82 to the trust fund over time would balloon to \$800 billion. Committee members discussed the desperate need for additional revenue or a substantial overhaul of the SS system to make HR 82 viable.

Both Chairman Neal and Representative Brady remarked about previous legislation they had worked on to create a bipartisan solution to WEP reform that does not negatively impact the solvency of the SS fund. Neal stated he is still "committed to finding a path forward to find meaningful relief" for those affected by WEP.

Both Neal and Brady have filed bills during this congressional session to address the WEP. Brady's bill is HR 5834 and Neal's bill is HR 2337. Representative Brady said he will work with Neal "to continue to narrow differences" between their bills, adding that "the clock is ticking." Brady also stated that it was important to "to marry the good work of HR 82" with the solutions he and Neal have been working on.

While there are not many days left in this congressional cycle, TRTA is committed to working with Representative Brady and Chairman Neal in the coming weeks as they work to finalize an agreement between their respective bills. We will pursue all actionable solutions on the WEP and GPO, knowing that now is the time for action and that support for reform is galvanized by the committee's recent vote.

TRTA supports the full repeal of the WEP and the GPO. We support the process and the work to reach common ground and find a solution that will garner enough support for passage in both the U.S. House and Senate.

We believe a solution to help future retirees with a fair and

proportional formula, provide current retirees with more of their earned SS benefits, protect the solvency of the SS trust fund, and help surviving spouses receive a fairer deal on the current GPO reductions is possible. We will exhaust all efforts to win this Congress on these important issues!

By the time you receive this issue of *The VOICE*, we may need our entire membership ready to engage on an end-of-the-year congressional deal to pass a WEP solution. PLEASE ask your friends and fellow retirees to join TRTA! We must expand our influence and grow our membership to win big.

Please, stay tuned to the *Inside Line* as we provide urgent updates on these issues! If you have not signed up for our electronic newsletter, you may visit www.trta.org/the-inside-line to sign up today! Sign up to ensure you do not miss any critical calls to action. Thank you for being a member of TRTA! ✪

TRS RETIREES NEED A RAISE!

TRTA members, we are at a pivotal time. The work needed to get the Legislature to pass a COLA for TRS retirees does not begin in January: it starts NOW.

- Retirees have been told to wait for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) until the timing is right.
- The state has a huge budget surplus.
- Inflationary pressure on seniors is at its highest amount in more than 40 years.
- NOW is the time for a meaningful and substantial COLA for TRS retirees.
- Only the Texas Legislature can approve a COLA for TRS retirees.

The November election and early bill filing period (which starts on November 14) will make all the difference in how the Legislature chooses its priorities for the 88th Legislative Session. Let there be no doubt: winning a COLA is necessary, but it won't happen without a battle!

Be sure you are on the front lines, alongside your fellow TRTA members, fighting for your COLA today. See our COLA Talking Points (page 9) to share with newly elected Senators and Representatives immediately after the general election (don't wait until January)! You may also visit www.trta.org/COLA2023 to download additional copies and find more information.

TRS RETIREES NEED A RAISE!

TRTA supports a substantial and meaningful cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees as a priority item in the 88th Texas Legislature.



Inflation is a Pay Cut for TRS Retirees:

- Inflation is the highest it has been in 40 years.
- TRS retirees can't afford to pay their bills and are making difficult choices about food and medicine.
- All TRS retirees are hit by inflation; longer-term retirees are hit hardest.
- Cumulative inflation since 2004 is now at 57%. What cost \$1.00 in 2004 now costs \$1.57.
- Most TRS retirees do not receive Social Security and depend solely on their TRS retirement.
- Meanwhile, SS recipients received a 5.9% raise this year and will receive a projected 8 to 9% increase next year.

ONLY the Texas Legislature Can Authorize a COLA for TRS Retirees:

- Funding is available to act on a COLA for retirees. The state must determine how it chooses to use its resources.
- The Texas Comptroller reports the state has a \$27 billion surplus next session.
- **TRS retirees have helped add to the surplus through inflation-driven tax revenues that they cannot afford!**
- Retired educators deserve to be at the top of the state's list of priorities when choosing how to spend the additional revenue.
- Since 2005, TRTA and the Texas Legislature have partnered together to increase funding to TRS, eliminate costly retirement loopholes, help make TRS actuarially sound, and provide three supplemental checks to TRS retirees. These steps were taken to benefit TRS and TRS retirees.
- The Legislature's actions have brought us forward to a time where a substantial COLA is now possible. We need the Legislature to act now!

The Time to Act is NOW!

- Retirees have been told to wait for a COLA until the timing is right. NOW is the time for a meaningful and substantial COLA for TRS retirees.
- The state has a huge budget surplus.
- Inflationary pressure on seniors is at its highest amount in more than 40 years.
- TRS retirees need a raise!

**Only the Texas Legislature can approve a COLA for TRS retirees.
Now is the time for a meaningful and substantial COLA for TRS retirees.**



Texas Retired Teachers Association
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701
1.800.880.1650 | 512.476.1622

TRTA District Presidents Begin a Joyful Year in Pflugerville

TRTA's 20 district presidents met in Pflugerville July 10-14 for their annual District Presidents Leadership Conference (DPLC). This event marked the beginning of a new and joyful year for TRTA's leaders. Pictured below are the 2022-2024 District Presidents (bottom row, left to right): Amparo Montes-Gutierrez (D1), Linda DeHaven (D2), Robin Metting (D3), Rosalind Haynes (D4), Lynne James (D5), Judi Thomas (D6), Dr. Marilyn Williams (D7), Vicki Dillard (D9), Gary L. Schepf (D10). Top row, left to right: Rachel E. Gasperson (D11), Jo Ann Sugg (D12), Gene Stokes (D13), Ruth Stewart (D14), Karen Hoelscher (D15), Charla Overton (D16), Judy Kennedy (D17), Shirley Johnson (D18), Nancy B. Evans (D19), Dr. Amy Jo Baker (D20). Not pictured Andi Kirby (D8).

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



President Marcy Cann welcomed everyone with fun, facts, and fellowship. District presidents participated in training with renamed and revamped state committees, including Communications and Membership/Volunteer Services. They also elected officers to serve on the District Presidents Council: Gary Schepf, Chair, Nancy B. Evans, Vice-Chair, and Karen Hoelscher, Recorder.

On July 12, the Presidents boarded a bus to the Capitol! They heard from several legislators, staffers, and TRS employees. Thank you to Sen. Bryan Hughes, Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, and Rep. John Bucy for providing insight into the coming legislative session. TRTA also thanks Ryan Alter, General Counsel for Sen. Chuy Hinojosa; Danny Mittnacht, Chief of Staff for House Speaker Dade Phelan; Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff for Lt. Governor Dan Patrick; and Sean Opperman, Chief of Staff for Sen. Joan Huffman.

Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) staff members Brian Guthrie (Executive Director), Lori LaBrie (Ombuds), and Katrina Daniel (Chief Health Care Officer) provided informative presentations about the pension fund, how TRS retirees can receive assistance at the state agency, and health care.

District Presidents attended a Standing Rules Workshop hosted by Mary Jane Hamilton, which gave guidance on establishing policies at the district and local levels to comply with the TRTA bylaws. They learned about the newly launched TRTA Portal, an upgraded membership reporting system providing greater flexibility for chapter treasurers. They also received initial details about TRTA's upcoming Day at the Capitol event on April 12 and heard from the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. The conference closed with a Mardi Gras celebration dinner, a festive occasion that included an interactive photobooth.

The presidents are prepared to face the challenges of the coming year as TRTA heads into the 88th Legislative Session and advocates for the Legislature to pass a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for TRS retirees. TRTA is grateful for their active participation and looks forward to working with them to make our association's voice stronger than ever! 🌟

THE BIGGEST LEGISLATIVE EVENT IS COMING APRIL 11-12, 2023!

The Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) is excited to announce our Day at the Capitol event on Wednesday, April 12, 2023! Retired public educators in Texas have not convened at the Capitol since 2019. We are looking forward to meeting with legislators, advocating for a much-needed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and enjoying fellowship during an old-fashioned ice cream social next April!

The main event will occur on April 12. TRTA has secured rooms and meeting space at the downtown Austin Hilton hotel for those who prefer to travel into Austin on April 11 and who want to begin the festivities early! Room reservations at the Hilton are open and best made online to ensure TRTA members receive the lowest room rate. Members, please visit www.trta.org/dac2023 to make your hotel reservations. The cost of rooms are \$229 (single and double), \$249 (triple), and \$269 (quad), not including tax. Onsite parking will be \$20 per night, a discounted rate just for TRTA members.

TRTA plans to offer optional sessions on the afternoon of April 11 at the Hilton, as well as a lively soiree that evening in the Governor's Ballroom. All TRTA members are welcome to attend these events whether staying at the hotel or not. On April 12, TRTA will have shuttle service from the Hilton to the Capitol. For those traveling in to Austin the morning of April 12, parking is available at the Capitol Visitors Parking Garage one block from the east lawn.

All TRTA members are welcome, and we hope to see you at the Capitol next April! 🌟



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

Since 2008, TRTA members have helped 227 retirees get back on their feet, nearly 650 active and retired educators recover from damages due to hurricanes and other disasters, 290 classroom teachers implement innovative projects and learning methods for their students, and 226 future educators pursue their passion for teaching. Additionally, TRTF provided grants to retirees who lost substitute teaching income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than \$850,000 has been given to educators of the past, present, and future around the state!

Your donation can mean so many things but changing a life for the better is the ultimate result. Your donation means that a retiree living on an income of less than \$800 per month can receive much-needed hearing aids, dental work, food, pay for their Medicare premium, and so much more! Your donation means that a classroom teacher can teach her students how to do CPR, grow food, build a house, and 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. Your donation also supports our most recent endeavor to link retired educators who need additional income with students who need tutoring assistance through our TRTF Tutor program.


Together, our charitable programs ("A Helping Hand," Disaster Relief Fund, Classroom Assistance Grants, Beginning Teacher Scholarships, the Tutor Program, and 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!

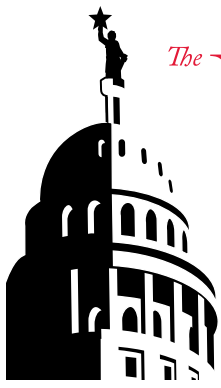
This is our annual appeal. Using *The VOICE* for our appeal saves thousands of dollars in postage, so that thousands more can be dedicated to our charitable programs. Please use the card found on the back page and enclosed postage paid envelope to send in your donation or donate online at www.trtf.org/donate.

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 chapter 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. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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