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TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION
OUTLOOK
November is Foundation Month
15-16



The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

RETIRED BUT NEVER QUITTING!



By Tim Lee
Executive Director

There is no denying the major victories realized by TRTA this past legislative session. As this issue was being developed, we were just days away from the implementation of the first increase in retiree annuities in over 13 years!

The TRS pension fund has recovered all of the value that was eroded during the recession. Earnings are on track, with another strong year of returns meeting or exceeding expectations. There will be no increase in retiree health care premiums this year, making it 10 years since they were raised. The pension trust fund is predicted to be actuarially sound. Not one bill was introduced this year to transition the TRS fund from its defined benefit plan to a defined contribution (or 401-k style) plan.

TRTA members should acknowledge their success enthusiastically! None of this occurred without your involvement, active support of the TRTA agenda and hard work!

The legislative process never stops, and our TRTA membership already is focused on issues that require immediate attention. As we prepare for the next session, please know that your unyielding support for TRTA is what led this organization to victory.

The pending threats to our TRS benefits still exist: our adversaries are hungry to make public pension plan benefits a thing of the past. They are growing more aggressive. Know this: you and your fellow TRS retirees and our active educator friends BEAT the billionaires and the ideologues. They may have access to more money and slick presentations, but YOU beat them.

Now, we must ALL work together and encourage more of our fellow retirees and pre-retirees (active employees) to help us fight. Membership matters! It MADE the difference this session. We owe it to each other keep our membership strong. This is the only way to preserve our hard-earned TRS benefits.

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Increase for Many, But Not All It is not surprising that many TRTA members are displeased that not everyone is getting an increase in their retirement income. TRS retirees who left their positions after August 31, 2004 are not receiving the 3% increase passed by the Texas Legislature.

Considering the negative sentiment that our adversaries tried to create about the TRS pension trust fund and its defined benefit structure, many would have thought an increase for any TRS retiree last session was a long shot.

As session continued, more focus was placed on making the fund actuarially sound in advance of major accounting changes slated to go into effect in 2014. Not taking advantage of the moment to make the fund's financial health more stable could have been a disastrous missed opportunity for TRTA and our goal of preserving TRS. We knew that our many supporters in the Legislature were thinking of ways to help their TRS constituents with real financial increases.

TRTA members worked day after day to message their legislators about the importance of making the fund actuarially sound, developing a real plan to maintain its long-term fiscal condition, and assuring future retirees that their retirement plan was stable. We told legislators that TRS is removed from the growing national fervor to eliminate state pension plans which are poorly managed by political leaders who find it easier to shortchange promises and bemoan educators and government retirees who depend on them.

Our messaging started long before the first day of the 83rd Legislative Session. Our members pushed an aggressive advocacy campaign for over a year. Legislators were impressed and inspired by our members. Every Texas legislator was contacted PRIOR to the start of session. This played a critical if not absolute role in discouraging any legislation to transition the fund from a traditional plan to a privatized plan.

TRTA met regularly with our strongest supporters in the Legislature, imploring them to take ANY opportunity to help TRS retirees. While no one plan was promoted more than any other, a model used in 2007 (a "13th check") was considered. Such supplemental payments are seen as quicker, lower-cost ways to help retirees.

As discussions progressed, it became clear that the TRS fund actually could sustain a permanent increase for TRS retirees. What was not clear was how many retirees could be helped. Much of this confusion was due to a state law which prohibits providing benefit increases when the fund becomes not actuarially sound as a result (TX Gov't Code Section 826.001 (A)).

At the onset of the discussion, TRTA's position was clear: help our more senior retirees that have significantly lower annuities. As the weeks went by, actuarial data suggested that more could be done. The scenario improved through several variations of SB 1458. The final determination was that the raise could be applied to all TRS annuitants retired as of August 31, 2004 and before. The total number of recipients exceeded 195,000, or almost 2/3 of all TRS annuitants.

This left a significant number of individuals wondering when or even if they will ever receive an increase. It was 2001 when retirees last received a COLA. TRTA understands this frustration. If you are one of those members who did not receive a raise, TRTA has NOT forgotten you! This organization works to help ALL retirees.

The answer is that an increase will happen for all other TRS retirees when the Legislature authorizes it. The next chance for authorization is in 2015 during the 84th Legislative Session. TRS must continue to have strong market performance. TRTA must protect the fund from attempts to reduce TRS funding or exercise unneeded political pressure to change how TRS manages the pension fund assets.

We know that the financial need for retirees who did not qualify for the increase is just as strong as the need for those who did. We will not stop working to help ALL TRS retirees.

TRS-Care, So Many Questions While TRTA made major advances for the pension fund, there was little action taken to improve TRS-Care. This is extremely unfortunate considering the immediacy of the looming health insurance crisis. Our members tried to raise the alarm. The Legislature simply did not have the desire to focus on TRS-Care because the fund's balance sheet still projected small reserves through the current biennium.

While the idea of a solvent health care fund provides some comfort in the short-term, those feelings fade quickly as the severity of the pending crisis is brought to light. TRS-Care is projected to have a negative balance exceeding \$1 billion by 2016-17. If the Legislature fails to address this in 2015, the plan will fall off the proverbial cliff. Retirees almost certainly will be left with drastically reduced health care benefits, higher premiums, or both.

TRTA is working to protect your retirement security and TRS-Care. We are pursuing every opportunity on both the state and national levels to learn more about leveraging potential health care savings, improving the efficiency of care delivery while not sacrificing quality, and looking for additional revenue sources in the budget to address this issue.

It is not a question of if there is a health care crisis, but of how soon the Legislature will respond. TRTA is also pushing for greater understanding of how the federal Affordable Care Act may impact Medicare costs or doctor reimbursement rates. These issues are vital to the TRS-Care fund. If Congress attempts to shift more financial burden away from Medicare and onto states or state-sponsored health care programs, the impact may be very damaging to an already fragile situation.

STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN NOW TO IMPROVE OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS

I am privileged to speak to both TRTA members and TRS pre-retirees across Texas. I am asked one question no matter the audience: How can we protect our benefits? Here are some essential steps to protect what you have earned.

- 1. Talk to each other:** There are over 1.3 million TRS retirees and active employees. Many have NO idea their benefits are being attacked and are under financial pressure, but they need to know! Networking with TRS retirees and active school employees is essential.
- 2. Talk to your legislators:** Legislators respond to those who are involved. If we are sitting on the sidelines during critical times, someone else is filling in. There is no wrong time to contact them. The best time is when they are not in session, and are back at home feeling pressure from YOU!
- 3. Join TRTA:** Many people have little interest in the legislative process. Others believe they do not have the political acumen to be effective. Some may think their individual effort has little impact. TRTA is a strong, organized, educated, and powerful voice for ALL TRS members, retired or pre-retired! We have many ways for members to get involved!
- 4. VOTE!** Recognize the importance of EVERY election, especially the primaries! More elections are won during the primaries than the general election. Ask legislators or candidates if they are committed to helping TRS members protect their hard-earned benefits. If every person interested in protecting their TRS benefits became involved during primary elections, many elections could swing towards strong leaders willing to support TRS and its members!
- 5. Join a TRTA local unit:** All politics is local! Legislators respond to their hometown voters. If you are an experienced advocate, we need your help. If you have no idea how to get involved but recognize the value every person brings to this collaborative effort, join a local unit. Local units are the epicenter of our grassroots power. They train, educate, organize, strategize, and help lead TRTA to victory. If you are not involved in a local, now is the time.
- 6. Thank your legislators:** It is easy to criticize legislators. Everyone has an opinion about their effectiveness, but few realize the hours of dedicated public service they give. Last session, they focused on improving the fund and took big steps to protect TRS for years to come. In many states, changes being made to public pension plans use the opposite approach, diminishing them instead of preserving them. Our legislators absolutely made a difference for all TRS members in 2013. Let them know you appreciate them. They will be more willing to work for you in future sessions.
- 7. Sign up for the Inside Line:** Want direct and immediate information about all of the issues we are following? Sign up for the TRTA electronic newsletter, the *Inside Line* (www.trta.org). It's current, accurate, informative, and FREE!
- 8. Go to town hall meetings or other events:** If you want to make an impression on legislators, go to their district meetings and events. Let them know you want and need their help. Tell them you are keeping a close eye on how they represent YOU and YOUR livelihood.
- 9. Ask others to join TRTA!** Our membership is growing. Still, we have 80,000 members out of 300,000 TRS retirees, and there is room for improvement. The legislative process is a numbers business: the more members we have, the stronger we are! If you meet someone who is skeptical about TRTA, tell them that no other group in Texas represents TRS retirement issues with more experience, focus and commitment than TRTA. Our successes include: enacted TRS-Care in 1986; initiated CPI catch-up 1996-2001; prevented health care premiums from increasing 2004-2014; attained "13th check" for all retirees in 2008; improved funding for TRS making it actuarially sound and passed legislation for a cost-of-living increase for 200,000 retirees in 2013.
- 10. TRS cannot lobby:** It is up to us! It is our privilege to fight this fight. If we don't fight, who will?

The TRS Board of Trustees is aware of our concerns. They released an in-depth study on possible TRS-Care changes in 2012 and will update the study with the goal of seeking long-term solutions.

TRTA has championed the preservation of TRS-Care since its inception over 25 years ago. This program originally was projected to have a 10-year lifespan, but our work has kept TRS retirees and their dependents insured for more than double that length of time.

Now, the plan is on the ropes. TRS has utilized nearly every tool and trick possible to keep the plan stable over the past 2½ decades. With so many

unanswered questions at both the federal and state levels about health care costs and availability, TRTA members cannot let this issue spiral out of control.

We must be ready to exert as much political influence as possible, educate every legislator, and muster our might to protect TRS-Care. If you know of any TRS retiree who is not a member of TRTA but cares about the future of health care, get them involved now! We won a major legislative victory last session, but we must enhance our ability to protect TRS-Care and the pension fund.

TRTA is your organization, formed more than six decades ago to protect

current and future retirees. Our members look out for each other. Remember this: when you were active and serving the state of Texas, TRTA was there working for you. Now, we must fight to preserve TRS for those who are active and serving today. With increasing pressure on the benefits that our members worked entire careers to attain, ask yourself this question: Would things be better or worse if TRTA was not involved? The answer is clear.

TRTA must be ready to protect our pension and health care benefits. We must encourage others to get involved. We may be retired, but we never QUIT! ✪

★ PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE



Summer has come and gone while your State Public Relations Committee was looking at innovative ideas to promote our organization. During our summer meeting, we put in place some plans that we hope will make TRTA more visible in your local communities and units.

We distributed to all 20 districts an example of TRTA promotional items, and asked all District Presidents and Second Vice-Presidents to promote them at Fall Conventions and throughout the year. Members can order individually, or local units may place an order. Items cost between \$1.00 and \$5.00 and make wonderful gifts for new members, door prizes at local meetings, or “thank yous” to community leaders.

This year your PR Committee will recognize a District web page from each cluster. In today’s technological world, it is important that our websites are updated, interesting, and appealing to retirees and pre-retirees who want to become members of TRTA.

We collaborated with the State Membership Committee to initiate the use of permanent membership cards for Life and Continuing Members.

We are all aware of our Children’s Book Project and the impact that goes beyond just giving books. In the spring of 2012, we collected and distributed 12,542 more books than in 2011. Our goal is to continue our increase in this worthwhile project. None of us know what that one book might mean to a child. Do not forget to order and insert our bookplates before distributing, since this is an easy and inexpensive way to promote TRTA and our continued interest in education.

Your state committee members, Artemus Hancock (5), Teddie Pointdexter (16), LaWynn Rogers (10), Helen Sadler (3), Sally Soderstrom (19), and myself (15) want to say “Thank You” to each TRTA member for helping us reach our goals in 2013–2014.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Byler".

Nancy Byler
2013–2014 TRTA Second Vice-President

TRTAConnect is Here!

As promised, TRTAConnect went live in July and is now available to assist you with your local unit management! TRTAConnect is being used by local unit officers throughout the state to report local unit membership and pay state dues. The response has been very positive! Users find it easy to operate; much easier than copying and marking pages of membership reports. Current users, known as local unit managers, are treasurers, first vice-presidents or other officers with varied levels of computer expertise.

TRTAConnect’s introduction to local unit officers began in June, when District 8 invited TRTA staff to come to their Region 8 Service Center and train representatives from the local units. In July, District Presidents saw a demonstration of the program during the Leadership Training Conference. District Presidents were given the opportunity to send up to two representatives from their district to Austin for training sessions in August and September. Attendees at the sessions are able to not only use TRTAConnect for local unit management, but to train other local unit managers as well. Many of the local unit managers currently using TRTAConnect received their training from these attendees.

TRTAConnect is the result of many years of development, undergoing several iterations to ensure that it provides maximum ease and usefulness to TRTA volunteers. The product introduced in July is so good that other associations have taken notice and are requesting information about it.

The current version of TRTAConnect is even better! As the number of users has increased, certain functions have been improved. One example is the “search” feature that recently was added to locate members by their last name when submitting payments. Users are developing innovative ways to utilize TRTAConnect in other aspects of local unit management beyond submitting state dues and running membership reports. A forum to share these innovations is being considered. Stay tuned to upcoming issues of *The VOICE* for the latest news regarding TRTAConnect. 📧



This is Part 1 in a series of articles about the experience of being a member in the nation's largest organization of retired school personnel, the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA)!

THE TRTA EXPERIENCE

Do you ever wonder about the inner workings of TRTA? Are you curious about the dedicated volunteers who lead the organization and what their hopes are for the future of TRTA? Are you familiar with the different departments that manage the daily activities of our non-profit, as well as with our partner organization that focuses solely on charitable activities?

TRTA is focused on serving its members in multiple capacities, while keeping to its core mission to preserve and protect the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) and the defined benefit plan for all current and future TRS retirees.

State The Texas Retired Teachers Association is led by an 11 member Board of Directors (BOD) elected by a House of Delegates (representatives selected from each of TRTA's 259 local units, organized into 20 districts) during the annual Convention each spring. The House of Delegates also serves as the voting body to amend the bylaws of the organization.

TRTA's 20 districts are responsible for helping our local units carry out the state organization's bylaws by hosting regional training conferences twice per year. The 20 District Presidents receive their own training each July in Austin, which prepares them for their leadership roles.

Beginning in 2014, officers of the Board will be elected to two-year terms. Currently, officers serve one-year terms and are eligible for a second term upon reelection. It is common for officers to serve in all of the leadership positions consecutively over the span of 8 years, though it is not required. For example, many Presidents initially serve at the state level as Secretary/Treasurer, then Second Vice-President, followed by First Vice-President and finally President. While it is not common for filled positions to be challenged during reelection, it does happen occasionally.

By TRTA Staff
Tim Lee &
Cindee Sharp

TRTA's current President, Maridell Fryar, is an exemplary leader. She retired from Midland ISD in 1993 after 22 years in the classroom and 14 as a central office administrator. Those who know her well would not be surprised to learn that she guided the high school debate team. She also held leadership positions such as Director of Secondary Education and Executive Director of Instruction K-12.

Maridell is active in her local unit (Midland ARSP), and serves on the boards of several community non-profits. 2013 marks the eighth year Maridell has served on the TRTA Board, having held all of the key officer positions of Secretary/Treasurer, Second Vice-President and First Vice-President.

Your other key officers this year are First Vice-President Fran Plemmons, Second Vice-President Nancy Byler and Secretary/Treasurer Don Vardeman. Key officers also lead several of the state's important committees. The Secretary/Treasurer heads the Finance Committee, while the Second Vice-President leads the Public Relations Committee and the First Vice-President is in charge of the Membership Committee.

The serving President appoints the chairmen of all other state standing committees: Legislative, Organizational Affairs, Community Volunteer Service, Health Care, Informative and Protective Services, Leadership Training, Local Unit Support, Member Benefits and Retirement Education. To view the list of all committee chairmen and members, please visit our website at trta.org. Each committee is assigned a staff liaison who helps bring the committee's goals to fruition.

At the beginning of each fiscal year in July, the TRTA Board charges the committees with specific goals and tasks that should be accomplished during the fiscal year. All committees have six members, except for the Legislative Committee,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

which has a representative from each of the state's 20 districts in addition to the chairman.

TRTA members that attend the annual convention will be familiar with the state committee members because they lead many of the training and information sessions for their local unit counterparts. If you are a committee chairman at the local unit level, the state committee is responsible for creating and editing the training guides you receive each year.

Legislative Committee TRTA legislative efforts are led by TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee, one of the organization's key public voices and its lead advocate. Tim, always personable and knowledgeable, has developed strong working relationships with many Texas legislators and often can be found in the Texas Capitol building during six months of every odd-numbered year.

Tim is bolstered in his advocacy efforts by consulting staff, such as Ronnie Jung (the former Executive Director of TRS) and Vicki Truitt (former State Representative and leader of the Pensions, Investments and Financial Services Committee in the Texas House). This strong team is matched in dedication by the state's Legislative Committee Chairman and Coordinator Mr. Bill Barnes and his twenty-member committee.

Bill Barnes and his committee members are volunteers, all retired from public education in Texas. During every legislative session, these volunteers make multiple trips to the Texas Capitol, visiting as many legislative offices as possible while sharing a cohesive message. Many testify during hearings to support or oppose bills that impact the TRS pension fund or TRS-Care.

While these volunteers are comfortable with advocacy, not all TRTA members are. Tim Lee, along with the committee members and staff, create the email Action Alerts that you receive in your inbox during legislative session. This is a great way for all members to participate in the legislative process. To be a part of this electronic revolution in advocacy, please sign up for our e-newsletter *The Inside Line* here at trta.org.

The committee was also responsible for launching the TRTA Legislative Initiative, which features training and resource guides and even helpful videos that enable our members to learn advocacy techniques. The initiative recently was updated with new material. Download these materials for free here: trta.org/index.cfm/legislation/trta-legislative-initiative.

Staff TRTA is a fast-paced office environment with a staff that is accustomed to multiple levels of job responsibility. Each staff member works in multiple areas of TRTA outreach, but all are singularly focused on making TRTA the most professional and experienced organization in the country



representing the interests of public education retirees.

The extensive experience of our staff members includes a former Executive Director of the Teacher Retirement System, a former State Representative, two CPA's, six professionals with 8 to 40 years of experience in accounting, a former teacher with 30 years in education, and multiple employees with

advanced training including several with master's degrees in various areas such as graphic design, marketing, business, regulation, and anthropology. One beloved staff member has been serving TRTA for 32 years!

The TRTA state office in Austin has 11 full-time employees working in four departments: Membership, Communications, Legislative, and Finance. For a complete list of staff members, please visit www.trta.org.

The Membership Department processes new and renewing memberships and coordinates with local units on the collection of state dues. The Communications Department is responsible for writing and designing all TRTA documents, including *The VOICE*, as well as promotional items. This department works closely with the Legislative Department to create fact sheets and training materials. The Legislative Department focuses on working and communicating with legislators and their staff, proposing new legislation and testifying at hearings. The Finance Department handles the organization's billing, audits, and budgeting.

Online and On Time Our readers may have noticed that TRTA shares many links to online features and encourages member participation through emails and other paperless avenues. As our membership has grown and changed, TRTA has responded by introducing innovative ways for our members to reach out to their elected leaders and learn about their retirement benefits.

Earlier in 2013, TRTA launched TRTAConnect for Local Unit Treasurers. This online management system helps local units reduce their paperwork and submit reports and payments for state dues online. Learn how to participate on page 4.

We already have mentioned our website (trta.org) as an excellent resource for downloading materials, but did you know we also have several videos online and a YouTube channel? (www.youtube.com/channel/UCfdr450x207j9ah6UO2vjaw?feature=watch). Our videos include training on how to better communicate with your legislators and informative pieces produced by the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF). Be sure to watch their just released short film, "Preserving the Legacy: Actives and Retirees Working Together."

TRTA's other online resources include our interactive

Facebook page with over 1000 likes (www.facebook.com/pages/TRTA-Texas-Retired-Teachers-Association/126989714019649) and our Twitter feed (twitter.com/TRTA).

While many of our members still appreciate the inherent value in handwritten letters and phone calls, we have found that these new technologies are easy to use and have been embraced wholeheartedly by members across the state. TRTA will continue to utilize many means of communicating with its members while seeking ways to be better stewards of your membership dollars.

One effort being introduced this fall to meet this goal is the TRTA Diamond Plus Program. This program is designed for members who prefer to pay their dues monthly through either payroll deduction or bank draft and who want hassle-free membership renewals. This program saves costs by reducing the amount of paper being used by the state office. Those are dollars that can be put directly into TRTA legislative activities!

TRTA Diamond Plus Program participants will receive a permanent membership card, access to new online features and special rewards and discounts. There is no additional cost to become a Diamond Plus participant, but payroll deduction or bank draft method of payment is required as is an email address.

Diamond Plus and TRTAConnect are leading TRTA into the future as we adapt to new technologies while still meeting the most pressing needs of our members and local unit leaders.

TRTA is also reaching out to active school employees with the impending launch of an online community. *Before the Bell* is an interactive blog site that features informative and innovative news about Texas schools. It is a great resource for teachers looking for classroom tools but also for retirees who want information about financial planning. The commenting feature allows visitors to discuss current events and share ideas with one another.

While much is new at TRTA, our legacy as an organization in business for 60 years is still celebrated and revered. We are led by individuals with 30 to 40 years of education experience! Our primary endeavor is to ensure that the TRS pension fund is around when our own children and grandchildren retire from serving Texas' students. TRTA, like TRS, is in the forever business!

Foundation Thousands of TRTA members are familiar with our charitable partner, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF). TRTF focuses solely on philanthropic endeavors, such as scholarships for future educators, grants for current classroom teachers, financial relief for public education retirees experiencing critical emergencies and educational materials supporting the traditional defined benefit retirement plan.

TRTF has a Board of Trustees with 9 members. Officers are President Tom Pritchard, Vice-President Corky Pence and Secretary/Treasurer LaVonne Rogers.

The Foundation issues a letter campaign every November to raise funds for their programs. Each year, the Foundation expands its charitable goals in an effort to help more educators of the past, present and future. This year, when the explosion occurred in West, Texas, TRTA members banded together quickly to raise over \$40,000 for the West Relief Fund. TRTF used those donations to give grants to retirees and active school employees in the small town. Our Foundation does great work thanks to our members!

TRTF publishes updates in *The VOICE* each quarter. Their section of this publication, entitled *OUTLOOK*, can always be found at the back of the bulletin. Read more on pages 15-16. ✪

2013-2014 TRTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Maridell Fryar

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Herbert Norris

FIRST VP/MEMBERSHIP

Fran Plemmons

SECOND VP/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Nancy Byler

SECRETARY/TREASURER & FINANCE

Don Vardeman

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Ann Parish

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

Leroy DeHaven

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL RECORDER

Mollye Long

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR

Bill Barnes

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS

Helen McGill

HISTORIAN

Dr. Sandra Neubert

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMITTEE

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HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Chairman Pat Harper

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman Ginger Mayo

LOCAL UNIT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Chairman Martha Kallus

MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Chairman Patricia Macias

RETIREMENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Carolyn Lance

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY

ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGIES

Chairman Dr. Sandra Neubert

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE

CONVENTION SCHEDULES FOR ODD

NUMBERED YEARS

Chairman Richard Roberts

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY USE OF

DUES INCREASE FUNDS

Chairman Don Vardeman

2013-2014 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

**Maria V. Garza (1), Leroy DeHaven (2),
Carolyn Hale (3), Marcy Cann (4),
Linda Briggs (5), Don Allphin (6),
Gloria Bethany (7), Mary Nell Short (8),
Dale Thomas (9), Jo Long (10),
Jo Ann Smith (11), Laura Rothrock (12),
Mollye Long (13), Sue Burgess (14),
Lynn Granzin (15), Tommy Hays (16),
Mary Sexton (17), Ann Parish (18),
Norma K. Irwin (19),
Charlotte Travis, Ph. D. (20)**



TRTA 61st Annual Convention News!

Convention Schedule

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

10 – 11:30 a.m.

TRTF Board of Trustees Meeting

12 – 7 p.m.

Delegate Certification/Registration & Exhibits

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

TRTA Board of Directors Meeting

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

District Presidents Meeting

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Facilitators Meeting

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Legislative Committee Meeting

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Special Event Reception

MONDAY, APRIL 14

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Delegate Certification/Registration & Exhibits

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

District Caucus Meetings

11:45 a.m.

Foundation Luncheon

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Breakout Sessions I, II & III

6:30 p.m.

Banquet

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 a.m.

Legislative Breakfast

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Delegate Certification/Registration

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

First Meeting of the House of Delegates

12 p.m.

Stilwell Luncheon

1:45 p.m. – TBD

Second Meeting of the House of Delegates

TBD

TRTA Board of Directors Meeting

Hotel registration is now open for the 2014 TRTA 61st Annual Convention, which will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas (400 North Olive Street) on April 13-15. The theme of the upcoming Convention is "Lasso Our Legacy!" Join us for our western-themed occasion, full of both educational and entertaining events!

All rooms at the Sheraton Hotel Dallas cost \$125. This group rate is available until March 21, 2014. Call 214.922.8000 to reserve your room today or visit our website to register online (trta.org/index.cfm/calendars/trta-61st-annual-convention).

District 10 is proud to host the 2014 Convention and promises plenty of local western flavor! Menus, entertainment and guest speakers will be revealed in the next issue of *The VOICE*. Tours are available on Sunday, April 13. See details below!

TRTA is still determining the final details of the convention, but a preliminary schedule of events is listed to the left. Please note that a cash bar and appetizers will be available during the special event reception on Sunday, April 13, however no meal will be provided. Also, this year's comprehensive legislative event will be held in the morning during breakfast instead of during the lunch hour.

Join us in Dallas as we begin the next successful sixty years of TRTA! ★

Tours made available by Discover Dallas Tours. Contact Rebecca Koenigs for more information (214.521.3737 or email rebecca@discoverdallastours.com). Transportation and a narrative tour guide are provided for each tour. Registration information will be in the next issue of *The VOICE*.

Dallas Highlights: Visit Dealey Plaza in the West End Historic District. Learn about the Sixth Floor Museum. At the Old Red Courthouse, hear about the history of Dallas from the 1800s to present. Learn about the Belo Mansion's ties to gangsters Bonnie and Clyde. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Cost: \$40 per person and includes a narrative tour of Dallas

Southfork Ranch: Relax on a guided tram tour of the Southfork Ranch grounds en route to a tour of the famed Ewing Mansion. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Cost: \$50 per person includes admission to Southfork Ranch, private tram tour of the grounds, Ewing Museum, and Dallas Legends Exhibit

JFK and Sixth Floor Museum: Experience the JFK tragedy firsthand as your guide takes you through the historic events of that day. Follow the parade route of Kennedy's motorcade, walk the Grassy Knoll, and more! 2 – 5 p.m. Cost: \$40 per person includes admission to the Sixth Floor Museum

George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum and SMU: Tour SMU, the nationally ranked private university founded in 1911, as well as the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. 2 – 5 p.m. Cost: \$50 per person includes admission to the Bush Library & Museum. Drive through historic Highland Park.

Brown County RTA Honors Representative Keffer

Members of the Brown County RTA local unit honored Representative James Keffer on September 24. Sharing the honor of hosting Representative Keffer was the Early Chamber of Commerce, which provided the meeting place for the retiree group.

Nancy Byler, TRTA State First Vice-President said that the event was meant to "let Representative Keffer know how much we appreciate him taking a stand for not only Brown County, but TRTA District 15 and the state." Representative Keffer filed a bill (HB 1383) early in the 83rd Legislative Session to increase the state's contribution to the TRS pension fund.

Although his bill was later replaced with the TRS Actuarial Soundness Bill (SB 1458), his legislation served as a catalyst for moving the discussion about improving TRS forward. Representative Keffer worked behind the scenes with Tim Lee, TRTA Retirement Consultant Ronnie Jung, and TRTA Lobbyist Vicki Truitt to garner support for SB 1458.



Nancy Byler, Maridell Fryar, Representative Keffer

TRTA State President Maridell Fryar made a special presentation to the representative, expressing "heartfelt thanks from over 200,000 retirees who received a cost-of-living increase this year." Brown County RTA member Molly Embry said that Representative Keffer "has been supporting us for years now and we appreciate him coming here today." Ronnie Jung also said that Keffer "always had an open door" and was "one of the first legislators to step up" for TRS this session.

Representative Keffer remarked that he was proud to be a part of the

TRTA team that works tirelessly for its members and said "it was time—in fact past time—for retirees to receive an increase." He said that he did not want to return to Brown County after this past session and tell his constituents that they would have to "wait until next year" for some financial relief. He also praised the vast network of retirees across the state, saying that "retirees calling their representatives and senators was extremely helpful" in getting SB 1458 passed.

Keffer also was grateful that SB 1458 improved the TRS fund for all current and future retirees, stating "being actuarially sound is HUGE!" Keffer finalized his remarks by saying that "other states have not taken care of their retirees, but Texas is different, Texas takes care of its people." However, he stressed the importance of defending this past session's accomplishments by remaining vigilant. ❏



TRTA Hearing Benefits

The TRTA Hearing Benefits Plan is designed so that all TRTA members and their spouses can take advantage of their well-deserved benefits, even if they don't own or need a hearing aid. The best part is if you are a TRTA member you already have these FREE benefits.

Newest Benefits!

- Hearing Aids Available For Under \$1,000
- 0% Interest Financing Now Available On All Purchases

Call Today To Find Your Hearing Benefits Provider

If you don't wear a hearing aid:

- Annual hearing screenings at no charge

If you already own a hearing aid:

- Annual hearing screenings at no charge
- FREE fit and performance adjustments
- FREE hearing aid cleaning
- FREE hearing aid analysis

If you need a hearing aid:

- A 10% discount off your provider's everyday published pricing
- All follow-up care - FREE
- All reprogramming and adjustment of digital and programmable hearing aids - FREE
- A minimum two-year repair warranty
- A two-year supply of batteries with purchase

To Find Your Hearing Benefits Plan Provider Call

1-866-478-TRTA

Have A Hard Time Hearing On The Phone?

Let Us Help You Get A FREE Amplified Phone

Texas residents with a hearing loss can get a voucher for a FREE amplified telephone and accessory bundle valued up to \$300. Call Kristen toll free at 1-888-759-2729 to find out how you can get yours.

Limit one per household every 5 years.



107 AND COUNTING:

Elmer Hill, former veteran, educator, doesn't consider himself "old"

BY RACHAEL RILEY

HENDERSON DAILY NEWS (WWW.HENDERSONDAILYNEWS.COM)

Retired educator and World War II veteran Elmer Everett "E.E." Hill had 106 reasons to be happy before August 20, and Tuesday gave him 107. Hill celebrated his 107th birthday with friends and family at Emeritus Assisted Living. "I appreciate it because they didn't have to do that," Hill said. "They're trying to call me old. I told them I'm not old, I've just been here a long time, there's a difference."

Born in 1906 to farmers Alf and Catherine Hill, E.E. Hill was one of 11 brothers raised in the Bethel community in Rusk County. When his first cousin passed away, his parents took in another boy, Hill said. "My father was the shortest man in Henderson," Hill said. "And my parents believed in trying to have children and help them get an education."



Hill attended grade school in the county and then traveled to Tyler to attend Butler College before graduating from Sam Houston State University in 1931 and beginning a teaching career.

He met his wife of 60 years, A.B., at a church in the New Prospect area. "At the time I met her I wasn't thinking about marrying nobody, but we continued to associate and everything, and finally I did," he said. "Fortunately, I didn't have to marry but once."

The couple had two children, son Ray Hill of Grand Prairie and daughter, Audrey Young of Dallas.

They lived near the Henderson Colored High School on Methodist Hill, or Sand Street, where Hill taught. Eventually named after Hill in 1965, the school integrated in the late 1960s. HISD used the campus for kindergarten as recently as 2009. Hill taught at the school from 1931 until 1941 and left his position to serve in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1945 during World War II.

He lived on a battle ship aircraft carrier during those two years. "It carried a dozen planes," Hill said. "The planes could fly off and do their bombing and would come back." Hill stayed on the ship taking care of aircraft and cooking. He said the ship had about 15 guns, and three people were assigned to a gun. "There was someone loading it, someone shooting it and someone giving orders," Hill said. "I gave orders that the planes would call in to the captain to shoot or not."



After his service, Hill returned to the school and served as its principal until his retirement in 1971. After the passing of his wife, Hill took care of his home near the school until his children requested he move to an area near others a few years ago. He visits the home once a week when his children come into town and still gets around without a walker or cane.

As for the "secret" to his long life, Hill said he puts God first. "Just be good to the Master," he said. "He looks after that. When he gets ready for me, well, he'll be calling me in. But as long as he doesn't need me, I'll stay around here with the rest of y'all. I don't have any problem. I just get along like I've always done."



Texas Mobile Imaging

"Early Detection Equals Prevention"

Texas Mobile Imaging offers 3 painless cardiovascular ultrasounds for the early detection and prevention of stroke due to fatty plaque buildup in the carotid arteries of the neck, sudden death from rupture of an unfound abdominal aorta aneurysm and leg amputation due to (P.A.D.), which is blocked arteries in the legs. TRTA Members receive a discounted price of \$110 (\$135 regularly) for all 3 vascular scans (\$300-\$1500 each in hospital) which will also include complimentary ultrasound scans of the thyroid, gall bladder, liver and kidneys for any stones, cysts, or tumors that could be cancerous, as well a complimentary heart rhythm screening for atrial fibrillation. Free educational workshops on the prevention of stroke and vascular disease and actual scans can be done at TRTA local unit meetings. Call Joey Wyatt at 1.832.437.1296 or email joey@txmobileimaging.com.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments: Due November 1

Article XV, Section 1 of the TRTA bylaws states that "proposed amendments to be considered by the Organizational Affairs Committee shall be made through a Local Unit or a TRTA District and shall be submitted to the TRTA office by November 1." Download bylaws amendment form at www.trta.org. Please attach a copy of the District or Local Unit meeting minutes during which the proposed bylaws amendment was passed.

2014–2015: RUNNING FOR TRTA OFFICER POSITIONS

If you are a qualified member interested in running for a TRTA office for the year 2014–2015, please complete the filing form and submit it to the TRTA office (deadline is January 15, 2014). The form can also be downloaded at www.trta.org. In accordance with the TRTA Bylaws, the elected officers of the association shall be President, First Vice–President, Second Vice–President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Below are steps governing the election of TRTA Officers:

Officers of the Organization, Article VII, Section 1.1
TRTA shall have the following statewide officers, who shall be elected or appointed as specified:

1. The officers elected by the House of Delegates shall be the President, First Vice–President, Second Vice–President, and Secretary/Treasurer. A candidate for any of these offices shall have been a participating member of TRTA and of a Local Unit for at least three (3) years, and shall have served as an elected officer of a District or Local Unit, but need not have served as a statewide officer.

Nominating Committee Guidelines
TRTA Operations Policy

1. The Nominating Committee shall solicit nominations for elections to statewide office in the September and December issues of the TRTA publication. Nominee forms should be requested from the TRTA administrative office and must be completed and returned to that office with photos, postmarked no later than January 15. All nominees meeting the established criteria, as determined by the Nominating Committee, shall be candidates for the respective offices. Biographical data and photos of all candidates shall be published in the February issue of the TRTA publication.

Campaigning for TRTA Office/Position
TRTA Operations Policy

Campaign procedures to be followed by all candidates for TRTA office are:

1. Whether announced or unannounced as a candidate for a TRTA office, the campaigning period shall begin 90–days prior to the start of the TRTA convention and conclude upon the election of TRTA officers.
2. TRTA shall not pay campaign expenses incurred for any candidate.
3. Name and address mailing labels of district and local unit presidents, and the Board of Directors, may be provided to TRTA officer candidates upon written request to the Executive Director. A payment of \$25 is required. The request must indicate that the label information will be used only in the campaign for the current office sought.
4. A request for mailing labels shall be discussed only with staff and/or officers, and only for the process of providing the labels.

Elections, Article VIII, Section 2

1. The House of Delegates shall elect the officers by secret ballot at the annual TRTA Convention. A majority vote shall elect. If no majority vote is achieved, a run–off election shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates receiving the most votes. If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, a vote for that office may be by voice.

FILING FOR TRTA STATE OFFICE

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Local Unit _____

I am filing for:

- TRTA President** **TRTA 1st Vice–President**
 TRTA 2nd Vice–President **TRTA Secretary/Treasurer**

I understand that a candidate for this office shall have been a participating member of TRTA and of a Local Unit for at least three (3) years, and shall have served as an elected officer of a District or Local Unit, but need not have served as a statewide officer.

My credentials are:

A postmark of January 15, 2014 is the deadline for the TRTA office to receive this completed form and a color photo of you to be included in the first quarter 2014 issue of *The VOICE*.

Mail to TRTA | 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701

Zumba for Seniors

The advantages of exercise throughout life are often touted. But before talking about Zumba, it must be analyzed whether Zumba or any other forms of fitness workouts are safe for seniors older than 65 years?



The answer is simply YES! Gerontologists from American Academy of Family Physicians suggest that almost all older people can get numerous benefits from additional physical activity. Regular exercise protects from chronic diseases, improves mood and lowers chances of injury.

With age, the body does take a little longer to repair itself, but moderate physical activity is good for people of all ages and of all ability levels. In fact, the benefits of your elderly parents exercising regularly far outweigh the risks. Even elderly people with chronic illnesses can exercise safely. Many medical conditions are improved with exercise, including Alzheimer's and dementia, heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer, high blood pressure and obesity.

With the passage of age, the body takes longer than usual to repair itself, but moderate exercises are always beneficial for people irrespective of their age and their ability levels. Indeed, it benefits if done regularly and fades any chances of getting age-related diseases.

Why Zumba is Better for Elders?

There is a specific Zumba program designed for beginners and senior citizens i.e. Zumba Gold. It's a fun-filled exercise class that combines dance steps and

movements with upbeat Latin music. Moreover, It's a great way for older adults to stay fit and active. Zumba provides a full body workout to the rhythm of Latin American music. The dance steps are easy for seniors to learn — and the best thing is, there is no need of a dancing partner!

People who are 55 years old or more and love to dance to Latin music, they'll definitely enjoy Zumba Gold classes because they focus on their abilities, not the physical limitations.

Active older adults want good fellowship, excitement and fitness as a regular part of their weekly schedule, and the Zumba Gold class is the perfect fit. It's a dance-fitness class that feels friendly, and most of all, fun.

Zumba Gold does not follow the regular aerobic style of 32 beats per movement, instead it follows the penetration of the upbeat music. Instructors are encouraged to choreograph the workouts within those specifications.

Benefits of an Exercise Program

Regular exercise has many benefits for almost all older people, states the American Academy of Family Physicians. Besides, it has numerous other advantages such as:

- ▶ It helps to improve mental condition,

lowers chances for injury and shields the body from unceasing disease.

- ▶ Medical conditions such as Alzheimer's, dementia, heart disease, colon cancer, obesity, and high blood pressure can be improved with exercise.

Vital Suggestions

- ▶ As for choosing any exercise program, seniors should consult with their physicians before beginning Zumba Gold, to be assured that if it is right for them. It is generally a low-impact and total-body workout.
- ▶ Dance experience is not required, and chair-based options are available if needed.
- ▶ Seniors can sign up for a weekly class, or work it into the rotation with other favorite, low-impact exercise options such as swimming and walking. And as we all know—no matter what age we are—exercise that is fun, enjoyable and shared with friends is bound to be repeated.

Read more: <http://www.fitnessrepublic.com/zumba-seniors.html#ixzz2fLm1uT8W>

About Natalie Walter: Dancing has always been a part of Natalie Walter's life. She danced on shows like Soul Train and MTV Music Awards. Zumba combines her two passions—dance and fitness! She became licensed to teach Zumba in 2009.

Helping Our Own for 25 Years November is Foundation Month

Support the Foundation by designating time during your local unit meetings to discuss our charitable programs: "A Helping Hand," Classroom Assistance Grants, Students Scholarships and The Legacy Campaign. For more information, please visit www.trtf.org or call 1.800.880.1650.



TRTA Awards Program

A summary of the TRTA Awards Program is shown below. All awards—both at the district and local unit levels—are self-nominated awards and TRTA will honor all nominations. TRTA Awards Program packets will be mailed in November to district and local unit presidents. In order for all awards to be prepared on time, all awards packets must be submitted to TRTA no later than February 15, 2014.

District Awards

Achievement Award

Nominated by the District President. Award recognizes district organization and programs; conducted 2 successful meetings with representatives from all local units

Golden Apple Award

Nominated by the District President. Award recognizes TRTA organizational activities—based on organizing a new local unit or reactivating one or more local units (maximum of 3 awards)

Grand Prix Award

Nominated by the District elected Officers or TRTA Board of Directors. Award recognizes exemplary service, projects and/or contributions made in support of or on behalf of a retired teacher association at any level; awarded for total commitment to promoting the progress of education in Texas or supporting the best interest of all retired educators (maximum of 3 awards)

Appreciation Award

Nominated by the District President. Award recognizes unusual service at the district level; for service not covered by other awards (maximum of 3 awards)

School Bell Award

Nominated by the District President. Award recognizes news media (newspapers, radio and television stations or respective media staff) for portraying a positive viewpoint of education or educators and who have promoted the interest of retired educators in some exceptional way

Local Unit Awards

Recognition Awards—Basic, Banner and Bell Ringer

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes local unit organization, programs and achievements (a local unit should apply for only highest award for which it qualifies)

Outstanding Recognition and Achievement Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes group contributions to its community and achievements of local units whose members joined together on one or more projects

Membership Retention Awards—Bronze, Silver and Gold

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award is based on the percentage of retention of last year's membership: Bronze = at least 80% retention, Silver = at least 90% retention, Gold = 100% retention (only 1 award per membership level)

Special Unit Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes promotion of TRTA membership; awarded on % basis

Silver Star Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes TRTA membership recruitment; awarded to a TRTA member who recruits 5 or more new members

Twenty-First Century Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes outstanding service; awards given according to number of members in local unit (# of awards based on # of members)

Appreciation Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes unusual service at the local unit level; for service not covered by other awards

School Bell Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President or Local Unit Awards Committee. Award recognizes news media (newspapers, radio and television stations or respective media staff) for portraying a positive viewpoint of education or educators and who have promoted the interest of retired school personnel in some exceptional way

Volunteer Service Award

Nominated by the Local Unit President. Award recognizes a member of a local unit with the highest volunteer service hours in that local unit (may only submit one nominee)

OUTLOOK



LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

A LEGACY OF HELPING OUR OWN

2013 Annual Appeal

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GET INVOLVED!

Learn more about the Foundation

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DONATE TODAY!

Donation card on the back of *The VOICE*

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NOVEMBER IS FOUNDATION MONTH

For the fifth year in a row, the TRTA Board of Directors has designated November as Foundation Month! Districts, local units and individual members of TRTA have the opportunity to learn more about the charitable activities of TRTA's partner organization, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF).

Last year, through the dedication and generosity of our members, TRTF raised \$74,000 for its three philanthropic programs: "A Helping Hand," classroom assistance grants and student scholarships. Also, funds donated to the Legacy Campaign, launched in 2010, were used to promote a positive image of public education in Texas.

This year, our goal is to raise \$100,000!! With your support, we can help our own!

TRTA members apply weekly and sometimes daily for assistance through "A Helping Hand." In the last month alone, 10 applications were received requesting help with

dental bills, rent payments, utility bills and home and car repairs. Over \$4,500 in grants were awarded to individuals that were experiencing emergencies and were in critical need.

Unfortunately, not all applications can be approved because the need is too great. With your help, we can double the grants awarded and reach more retirees in dire need. Last year, we helped 17 individuals, providing \$15,000 in grants!

Since 2010, we have extended a hand to 50 individuals and awarded over \$45,000. The gesture has been life-changing for many individuals and is sincerely appreciated. Our retirees know that when you belong to TRTA, you belong to an organization that truly cares about its members on a personal level.

TRTF also cares about our active teachers. Last year, the Foundation awarded 15 \$500 classroom assistance grants to teachers across the state. Our goal is to continue funding their innovative projects by awarding

15 more grants in 2014. Also, we will continue our support of future educators by providing scholarships to students majoring in Education. Last year, 15 \$500 student scholarships were awarded.

In August, with funds designated to the Legacy Campaign, TRTF produced a new video "Preserving the Legacy: Actives and Retirees Working Together." This video educates active and retired teachers about the defined benefit plan and the common goal that actives and retirees share: the TRS pension fund. It is our hope that this video will be viewed by all TRTA members and active school personnel. The video may be viewed on the TRTA website at trta.org/legacy.

Earlier in 2013, TRTF created a the West Relief Fund to assist retirees and active school personnel who were devastated by the fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas. Due to your quick response, TRTF

CONTINUED ON THE BACK



The VOICE

Send address changes to:
Texas Retired Teachers Association
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701-1957
800.880.1650 | www.trta.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

raised over \$41,000! 10 retirees and active school personnel were immediately assisted with grants totaling \$29,000. TRTF also made a \$6,000 donation to the Legacy West Education Foundation to assist teachers with rebuilding their classrooms. The remaining \$6,000 is reserved for any future applications. Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause.

TRTF will mail an annual appeal letter to all TRTA members in November. When you receive this letter, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Help us help our own!

LOCAL UNITS RAISE AWARENESS

The Foundation would like to thank all local units that have dedicated time during their fall meetings to discuss the good deeds of TRTF. We would not be able to sustain or expand our charitable programs without your support. Last year, local unit and district contributions made up almost half of all donations received! We appreciate your efforts to share the Foundation's goals and successes.



Many units use fun, creative fundraisers. One local unit



WATCH OUR NEWEST LEGACY CAMPAIGN VIDEO AND SHARE IT! GO TO WWW.TRTA.ORG/LEGACY

puts together a "mystery box." Raffle tickets are sold and the winner of the raffle receives the prize in the mystery box.

A great way to engage and educate members about the Foundation is to show the newest Legacy video during meetings. All District and Local Presidents received a complimentary DVD of the video entitled "Preserving the Legacy: Actives and Retirees Working Together." Produced with funds from the Legacy Campaign, it promotes a positive image of public education in Texas.

For Foundation "Talking Points" or fundraising ideas, please contact Foundation Coordinator Beth Unite at beth@trta.org.

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION OUTLOOK

LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

 **I WANT TO HELP!**

DONATION CARD
DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

SAVE TRTF A STAMP AND EMAIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

Donations are tax deductible. Enclose a check, completed donation card and send to:
Texas Retired Teachers Foundation • 313 E. 12th St., Ste. 200 • Austin, TX 78701-1957