

**News Updates from the President, Membership & Public Relations Chairmen**

**6-7**

**"The Winning Game Plan"; TRTA Annual Convention heralded as a great success**

**8-9**

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

**OUTLOOK**

First recipient selected, 2010 scholarships and grants announced

**11-12**



# *The* VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



**T**he Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) impact more than 1.5 million public pensioners around the country. These Social Security provisions were enacted over 25 years ago, and their impact has been felt far and wide ever since. For current retirees impacted by these provisions, it can mean hundreds of dollars a month lost in much-needed Social Security benefits. For the private sector employee contemplating a career shift into public education, the impact is the future benefit loss felt after years in another field. For those contemplating education as a career from the beginning, the provisions provide arguments against entering the profession at all.

## **AN UPDATE ON THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR GPO AND WEP REPEAL**

By Tim Lee, Executive Director

# **TRTA TAKES ON WASHINGTON**

*Cont'd top* TRTA has long held a steadfast position that these two provisions MUST be repealed. These two Social Security issues have always been TRTA's top federal legislative priorities, and many hours have been spent working the Texas Congressional delegation, urging their support in repealing the GPO and WEP.

These efforts have been largely successful in educating Congressional members on the effects of the GPO/WEP and the need for relief. But spurring Congressional

members into action is another story altogether. Clearly, the resistance to repealing the GPO and WEP is considerable.

So why do Congressional members continue to say there is hope for repeal when neither party has been able to advance legislation during their time controlling Congress? Neither Democratic nor Republican majorities have made substantial moves in repealing these two damaging Social Security provisions.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

# TRTA TAKES ON WASHINGTON



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

This is just one of the questions TRTA leaders wanted answered in the first-ever GPO/WEP summit conducted this past March in Washington, D.C. And guess what? We actually left D.C. with some answers!

**Summit Participants** The primary goal of the summit was to strengthen state and national partnerships for the repeal of the GPO and WEP. This is why TRTA worked so closely in planning the event with the retired teacher association (RTA) network, a consortium of all the other retired educator organizations in the country. As you know, TRTA is the largest association in the RTA network, but the retired educator associations in California, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Georgia, and others all have memberships in the tens of thousands. Engaging this network is key in activating a grassroots movement across the nation as well.

TRTA also contacted active educator and federal employee associations to participate in this event. These groups include the National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, National Active and Retired Federal Employees, and several other organizations. TRTA also sought the help of Texas-based active school employee associations: the Association of Texas Professional Educators and the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.



Congressman Kevin Brady

TRTA invited the Social Security Administration, the Governmental Accounting Office, as well as numerous Congressional members to present information at the summit. The focus was on inviting Congressional members with jurisdiction over this issue through various committee assignments, bill sponsorship/cosponsorship, or long-time support of repeal or revision. A complete list of invited members is located below. The Congressional members who ultimately participated in the event were U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congressman Kevin Brady (TX-8th) and Congressman Aaron Schock (IL-18th).

**The Plan** TRTA worked with the RTA network to develop several key objectives for this summit. First, the summit had to be held in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. It was imperative that the location would encourage Congressional participation. Summit participants wanted to speak directly to Congressional members and learn what they really thought about the chances for action and when the GPO/WEP debate might really begin. The summit needed to offer substantial opportunities for RTA leaders to speak directly to the right people.



Congressman Aaron Schock

Second, the summit needed to be more than just a rally for repeal. There are numerous legislative proposals relating to the GPO and WEP, and simply meeting in Washington, D.C. with our national partners just to discuss something we all already agree on would be a waste of time, resources and momentum. The summit was, from the beginning, a learning opportunity designed to bring many ideas to the table so that those impacted by GPO and WEP could learn what is being proposed, which of those ideas has a better chance of moving through the process, and how they would actually benefit those currently being penalized.

---

## Members Invited to the Summit

**Bureaucratic agencies:** Social Security Administration, Government Accountability Office, Congressional Budget Office, and the Chief Social Security Counsel

**Constituent associations:** All state retired teacher associations (all members of ASRTE), NRTA/AARP, ATPE, CPRS, AFSCME, NARFE and CARE, TCTA, AFT, NEA, Committee for Social Security Fairness, RSCMEAM, AMBA, MOAA and LASERS

**Congressional members:** Sen. Max Baucus, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sen. Sherrod Brown, Sen. Jim Bunning, Sen. John Cornyn, Sen. Richard Durbin, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Rep. Howard Berman, Rep. Kevin Brady, Rep. Lloyd Doggett, Rep. Barney Frank, Rep. Sam Johnson, Rep. Howard McKeon, and Rep. Aaron Schock

The summit provided an educational opportunity for participants who knew about GPO and WEP, but may not have had the historical context for why and when the provisions went into effect. Issues such as mandatory Social Security, the GPO loophole, dual entitlement, and many other topics were all on the agenda.

Finally, the TRTA Board of Directors believed this summit to be so vital to future action on the GPO and WEP that every TRTA elected officer, the Immediate Past President and the TRTA State Legislative Committee Chairman all participated. Our officers not only helped coordinate summit activities while in Washington, but also personally visited many Texas Congressional members' offices to advocate for you on this issue and more.

**Summit Highlights** The summit stretched over two days, and we used every moment as an opportunity to get something done with the GPO and WEP. Below are summary statements and key findings for each of the summit presenters (listed in order of appearance).

**Social Security Administration—Presentation Summary** Since this was the first-ever GPO/WEP summit, it was important to meet with the Social Security Administration for some background on why the GPO and WEP were instituted in the first place. The provisions were enacted to address issues Congress believed existed relating to the Social Security benefits for spouses of workers who held jobs that were not covered by Social Security (this is the basis of the Government Pension Offset); Social Security benefit calculations on work not covered by Social Security (this is the basis of the Windfall Elimination Provision); as well as issues relating to “dual entitlement.” Those wanting to learn more about the Social Security Administration (SSA)'s rationale for these provisions can visit [www.ssa.gov/pubs/10007.html](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10007.html) and [www.ssa.gov/pubs/10045.html](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10045.html).

**Key Findings**—The Social Security Administration is required to enforce

the current Social Security laws and often takes a hard-line position on maintaining these provisions. In TRTA members' experience, though, many SSA counselors are not fully aware of the intricacies of these two provisions and often provide inaccurate information to retirees about the GPO and WEP. TRTA asked the Social Security Administration to consider creating a specialized department within the agency to address the questions, concerns, and problems of retirees affected by the GPO and WEP. SSA voiced some agreement that, as long as these provisions exist, more experts should be made available to those affected. While no commitment was made at the meeting to make a new department within SSA a reality, TRTA believes it is a good idea that should be addressed sooner rather than later.

**Governmental Accountability Office (GAO)—Presentation Summary** According to their web site, the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) “...supports the Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and helps improve the performance and accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people.”

The GAO participated in the summit as a resource on the projected “cost” of repealing the GPO and WEP. The idea of

a “cost” for repeal is certainly subject to debate. Many people affected by GPO/WEP would argue that the government should never have enacted the provisions to begin with, and that their benefits are being used inappropriately to support costs associated with Social Security with no benefit in return.

**Key Findings**—According to the GAO, the cost to repeal the GPO and WEP exceeds \$90 billion over a 10-year period. Repeal would involve a recalculation of benefits for those presently impacted by these provisions and the going-forward costs of recalculated benefits for those still employed. The GAO is not a partisan organization; they merely provide information about legislation and the impact it may have if enacted.

**Congressman Kevin Brady—Presentation Summary** Congressman Brady was the first Congressional member to speak at the GPO/WEP Summit. TRTA officials have been meeting with his office for several years and talking about the issue. Many TRTA members may know him as the person who has introduced legislation dealing with the WEP but not the GPO. Others may remember a guest column he provided to TRTA back in 2004 (a reprint is posted on [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org)).



Congressman Louis Gohmert visits with his constituent Herbert Norris

# GPO & WEP SURVEY

1. I am age:  
\_\_\_\_\_ 50-61 \_\_\_\_\_ 62 or greater
2. I am/may become eligible to receive Social Security (SS) benefits from:
  - a. My own work history
  - b. My spouse's work history
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither
3. My SS benefits are reduced because I am impacted by:
  - a. The Government Pension Offset (GPO)
  - b. The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)
  - c. My benefits are not reduced
  - d. I am not yet eligible for SS
  - e. Don't know
4. If your SS benefits are reduced by the GPO, how much do you lose per month?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. If your benefits are reduced by the WEP, how much do you lose per month?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. I support (please choose only one answer):
  - a. Repealing only the GPO, I'm not worried about the WEP;
  - b. Repealing only the WEP, I'm not interested in the GPO;
  - c. A compromise proposal that modifies the GPO/WEP if it means getting something passed sooner rather than later;
  - d. Holding out for complete repeal of the GPO/WEP, no matter how long it takes;
  - e. Other (please explain on separate sheet).
7. Please label these three priorities in your own rank—order of importance (1 highest through 4 lowest).  
\_\_\_\_\_: Pension increase for TRS retirees  
\_\_\_\_\_: Higher contributions for TRS pension trust fund  
\_\_\_\_\_: Protection of the TRS—Care health insurance program  
\_\_\_\_\_: Action on GPO/WEP
8. In the past year, I have contacted my U.S. Senators and/or my U.S. Congressman about the GPO and WEP.
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

\*Please note, for information on GPO and WEP exclusions and to complete the survey online, visit [www.trta.org/survey](http://www.trta.org/survey). The completed survey may also be mailed to TRTA, Attn: GPO/WEP • 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78701-1957.

## Are you affected by the GPO and WEP?

This survey will help determine which members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) are impacted by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). After conducting the GPO/WEP Summit in Washington, D.C. in March, TRTA and other participants learned that more factual information is needed to help advance this issue. These facts, and your personal stories about how GPO/WEP are impacting you, are valuable to TRTA as we continue to meet with Congressional members on how these provisions affect their constituents.

Known widely as a proponent of action only on the WEP, many attendees had specific expectations for Brady's comments. To say that everyone agreed with all he had to say would not be realistic, but to say he impressed summit participants is not an understatement. With a grasp of the GPO/WEP issue rather uncommon among many of his colleagues, he thoroughly explained his legislative proposal, talked openly about the problems facing the Social Security (SS) system, presented his position without being defensive, and directly answered many questions. Brady was knowledgeable, accessible, and plainspoken, without a hint of the pretense often associated with elected officials.

**Key Findings**—Brady's bill is called the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act (PRSPA), or HR 1221. His legislation repeals the WEP formula and in its place applies the same formula used for Social Security recipients. The bill guarantees that public servants keep the SS they earned while they paid into the federal program. Its approach is based on actual wages and SS contributions.

He said his bill guarantees the highest possible SS benefit, and no less than a person may be currently earning under the WEP formula. Indeed, the estimated cost of enacting the PRSPA legislation is more than \$10 billion. (Under the bill, retirees will not receive retroactive payments, but future benefits will be recalculated and paid out if the measure became law.) The bill will allow for benefit recalculations that would be paid out if the measure became law.

Brady said he was not in favor of legislation that would repeal the GPO. Stating that his WEP replacement legislation was based on across-the-board fairness for benefit calculation, he said he did not yet know of a fair way to approach the GPO. He did, though, seem open to suggestions.

**Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison—Presentation Summary** Chief sponsor of S 490 (the companion bill to PRSPA), Hutchison made some brief comments about how she would like to see the issue addressed sooner rather than later. She commented how important it is to Texas and many other states to encourage

people to go into the education profession without discriminating against them via provisions like the current GPO/WEP. While sponsoring legislation that only addresses the WEP, Hutchison said she would be agreeable to working on the GPO repeal as well.

**Key Findings**—Hutchison focused her comments on coalition building and finding ways to partner with organizations representing the U.S. military (no military member organizations were able to attend the summit, though they were invited).

**Congressman Aaron Schock—Presentation Summary** The youngest Congressional member, Aaron Schock, is known in his home state of Illinois as a proponent of complete repeal of the GPO and the WEP. Congressman Schock, 29, regularly works with the Illinois Retired Teachers Association and attends meetings to discuss his support. He explained that the issue of the GPO/WEP is extremely difficult to pass even though there is broad support for repeal in Congress. The reason, he said, is that the cost for repeal is high at a time when the SS program is already bordering on insolvency.

**Key Findings**—Schock admitted that there might be Congressional members who sign on as a cosponsor for repeal knowing that the bill has little chance of passing due to its \$90-plus billion price tag. Nevertheless, he and many others hold onto the idea of repeal as a matter of political principle. *The bottom line is that Congress is not yet ready to address GPO and WEP as most members view these issues in the larger context of SS reform.* Many political insiders speculate on what the next major Congressional debate will be after health care and banking reform. Some believe it will be immigration, others the environment, and still some

would say deficit reduction. While this makes for interesting politics, the longer SS reform is delayed, the more latitude some members of Congress may believe exists when dealing with the GPO and the WEP.

**General Summit Findings** This point is clear: TRTA has not changed its position on this issue. We are still pushing for the SS Fairness bill that calls for the complete and total repeal of the GPO and WEP.

The summit provided an opportunity for TRTA, the RTA network and other partners to speak candidly about all available options. All took away a sense of how difficult any action will be on the GPO/WEP due to the poor financial condition of the SS trust fund, the national and world economic woes, and the political divisiveness that has settled into Congress and around the country. Still, TRTA and our partners must do all we can to repeal these two issues.

We are moving forward nationally to get this issue to the top of the Congressional agenda. To do this, we and our partners are conducting a survey of our members to learn how many are directly impacted by the GPO, WEP or both. The survey is

available on page 4 and at [www.trta.org/survey](http://www.trta.org/survey). If you are impacted by the GPO/WEP, or if you will be, or if you know someone who is, please respond to this member survey. The data is vital to how we move forward as a national coalition.

With the summer Congressional break about to begin, the most recent actions on health care still fresh, and fall elections just around the corner, it is not likely any action will be taken on the GPO/WEP this session. This does, however, give us time to engage leaders and continue to ramp up our communications with political officeholders and seekers. We know our members are anxious for Congress to do something about the GPO and WEP. TRTA is proud to take the lead. This tough issue will require a focused national effort to see any resolution. Slow but steady progress is being made because of your hard work and the support of all TRTA members.

Updates on the progress of our efforts are available through the TRTA Inside Line e-news service. Thank you for helping us with these unfair SS provisions. If you are impacted by GPO and WEP, please return the survey and ask others to do the same! ★

## After Summit Action: TRTA Leading the Way

TRTA and the RTA network are also moving forward with an action plan for this summer and early fall. Much of this plan is focused on getting to key political leaders in Congress and learning their intentions for the GPO and WEP. Here are some steps we are taking:

- ▶ Establishing contact with the White House and learning more about the administration's views;
- ▶ Meeting directly with Speaker Nancy Pelosi either in Washington or her home district in California (our west coast counterparts will confirm a date);
- ▶ Meeting with Senate Leader Harry Reid (Nevada);
- ▶ Meeting with Earl Pomeroy (D-North Dakota), acting Chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security;
- ▶ Closely watching the newly-activated Deficit Commission to learn their suggestions regarding Social Security;
- ▶ Continuing our member-led education campaign with Congress and Congressional hopefuls up to and through the fall elections;
- ▶ Compiling data from a national survey to learn more about those in our RTA network who are directly impacted by the GPO and WEP;
- ▶ Working with current bill sponsors on the Social Security Fairness Act (HR 235) and the Public Servant Retirement Protection Act (PRSPA)



# PRESIDENT'S LINE



2009–2010  
TRTA PRESIDENT  
**Dora Scott–Nichols**

Comments/questions? Contact Dora Scott–Nichols  
713.465.8912 • dorashn@comcast.net

Friends, as the term of my state presidency draws to a close, I'm pleased to say I have much to be proud of. Namely, I'm proud of YOU – the esteemed colleagues I worked alongside for so many years and now serve alongside in this great association. Our accomplishments are many, and our memories are rich.

TRTA's 57th Annual Convention, entitled "The Winning Game Plan," was a smashing success. Well-attended and smoothly run, the week's events offered an inspiring keynote address by Coach Gene Stallings, a visit from gubernatorial candidate Bill White, and many fantastic sessions on topics of interest to our members. I want to offer my personal gratitude to Charlene McCreight and District XI for all their thorough planning and heartfelt hospitality.

In other news, TRS Executive Director Ronnie Jung has announced his plan to retire in mid-2011. We will miss his stewardship and dedication to public education retirees and insist upon working with him and TRS to select a worthy successor. As of this writing, the pension fund stands at \$98 billion in investments, a marked improvement in light of last year's economic downturn. We will continue to defend our defined benefit plan and find a way to secure a permanent benefit increase; with TRTA Legislative Coordinator Bill Barnes and Executive Director Tim Lee at the helm, we are fighting the good fight and proving our strength more and more each day.

In sum, I owe many thanks to the Board of Directors, district and local presidents, members and staff for your support and dedication over the years. I'm honored and proud to transition into my role as Immediate Past President alongside President Herbert Norris, First Vice-President Maridell Fryar, Second Vice-President Mary Jane Hamilton and Secretary/Treasurer Francis Plemmons. Thank you once again for the opportunity, honor and privilege to serve as the 27th State President of TRTA. It has truly been a pleasure.

Have a fun and restful summer, and remember: EVERY MEMBER COUNTS!

## Take the DADS "Age Well Live Well" Challenge!

In April, members of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Volunteer and Community Engagement (VCE) office presented their "Age Well Live Well" initiative to attendees of the TRTA 57th Annual Convention in Arlington, Texas.

The core message of "Age Well Live Well" is that we are aging every day. It's important to know our choices today will affect us tomorrow and beyond. "Age Well Live Well" is a statewide initiative designed to support the increasing numbers of older people by combining three key areas into a formula for success: health and wellness, volunteerism and resource awareness.

By getting involved in the "Age Well Live Well" challenge, you can receive the following benefits: awareness of aging issues and resources, involvement in individual and community volunteer opportunities (Texercise, Silver Lining), health of area residents, employees and the community, support from recognized state and community leaders, and quality of life for all involved!

DADS oversees the provision of long-term services for: adults and children with medical or physical disabilities, older adults (60+) and caregivers, and adults and children with intellectual or developmental disabilities. DADS also regulates nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and provides other services and opportunities for community involvement.

Through health and wellness programs, volunteer opportunities and collaborative partnerships, DADS VCE office assists with the development of community projects, enhances existing programs and services and shares valuable information with the public about the services and supports that are available to older Texans and their families.

For more information on the "Age Well Live Well" initiative, as well as DADS programs and services, please contact DADS Volunteer and Community Engagement office at 800.889.8595 or visit [www.volunteeratdads.org](http://www.volunteeratdads.org), [www.texercise.com](http://www.texercise.com), and [www.silverliningatdads.org](http://www.silverliningatdads.org).



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



2009–2010  
TRTA FIRST VICE–PRESIDENT/  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
**Herbert Norris**

It's an exciting time in this association. We are larger than ever; setting precedents on issues of national significance, like the GPO and WEP; and launching initiatives to propel our organization even further. My time as First Vice–President has been more rewarding than I can explain, and I cannot wait for the adventures that lie ahead.

At this year's convention, we unveiled two new programs that, executed correctly, will ultimately make TRTA a household name.

Our "Each One Bring One" campaign encourages all TRTA members to recruit friends, family members, former colleagues and new acquaintances into the association with a good old–fashioned incentive: competition. Through this campaign, members will be entered into a drawing for every five new individuals they bring into the program. Our goal is to double our membership. We can do it!

To connect with active public educators and promote the new "Before the Bell" project Second Vice–President Maridell Fryar describes below, we have introduced a fantastic new poster that will be placed in teachers' lounges, credit unions and other areas frequented by active public educators. See this page for a photo of our excellent new design, sure to catch many an eye.

I am thrilled to step into the role of State President. I want to say "THANK YOU" to our current president, Mrs. Dora Scott–Nichols, for her leadership and grace. I look forward to working with all my fellow board members as we usher in this next era of greatness for TRTA.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE



2009–2010  
TRTA SECOND VICE–PRESIDENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN  
**Maridell Fryar**

Let's hear a shout for the Winning Game Plan! What a great annual convention we had in Arlington with words of inspiration from Gene Stallings, words of instruction at numerous training sessions, and words of fellowship and greetings as TRTA delegates and members met in hallways, exhibits and meetings. Congratulations to District XI for an excellent job of planning and of execution.

At this year's convention, we introduced an exciting new project that will allow us to reach out to active public educators and build familiarity by offering advice and information they can really use. Through the "Before the Bell" initiative, we will send vibrant, well–written e–newsletters to current public educators, covering relevant and interesting topics while establishing ourselves as experts who have stood where they now stand. Through this project, we will also reach out to active educators through a blog, twitter page and facebook profile, communicating with them in ways they prefer.

As this is my last column in *The VOICE* as TRTA Second Vice–President, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving in this capacity and working with you for the past two years to help get the message of our fine organization out to our communities and our state. This year YOU set a new record for the Children's Book Project with 89,995 books in the hands of Texas children; YOU have more local and district web pages up and operating than ever before; YOU increased the publication of district and local newsletters; YOU are getting the word out!

I know you will continue to work as Mary Jane Hamilton assumes leadership of this important facet of TRTA and that your efforts to share the mission and message of TRTA will increase in volume and quality. Thank you for being the heart and soul of TRTA.

**THE ROAD AHEAD  
MAY THROW YOU  
SOME CURVES.**

**WOULDN'T YOU LIKE  
A COPILOT?**

With everything you have going on every day, retirement is probably the last thing on your mind. But it's up ahead, waiting for you. We've been down that road. TRTA is a statewide network of public education retirees looking out for your future. Let us help you read the map.

Check out the fun new blog we've launched exclusively for current public educators at <http://beforethebell.typepad.com>.

Please visit <http://local.trta.org> or contact:

800.880.1650  
[www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org)

**TRTA**  
Texas Retired Teachers Association

# TRTA CONVENTION A GREAT SUCCESS

TRTA's 57th Annual Convention was heralded by those in attendance as a great success, providing a jump start for the upcoming legislative session. This year's theme, "The Winning Game Plan," permeated the event's conversations as the association geared up for a tough battle ahead.

Texas sports legend Gene Stallings, the well-known former coach of several college and professional teams, gave this year's keynote address. He spoke about his years of balancing his coaching career with raising his family, provoking inspiration, laughter and tears from the nearly 1,000 retired public educators in attendance.

Later in the week, the Democratic nominee for Texas Governor, former Houston Mayor Bill White, spoke to a crowd of about 700 members. He commented that Texas should be held responsible for allowing its public educators to retire with dignity, and for assuring that the TRS fund will never be used for political purposes. He pledged that, given the opportunity, he would sign legislation to add another retiree to

the TRS Board of Trustees. (In the interest of balance, TRTA also invited Governor Rick Perry to speak at the convention or send a message to attendees if he was unable to attend, but he was unable to participate or send word.)

During the annual business meeting conducted at this year's convention, several articles were amended: Article VII: Officers of the Organization. Section 3. Amend by inserting before "President" the following: "Officer vacancies shall be filled as follows:" and insert numbers 1, 2, and 3 in front of the current headings. Article VII: Officers of the Organization. Amend by adding a new Section 4. "Section 4. TRTA membership shall be conferred for life upon the completion of service in the office of state President."

We offer congratulations to District IV, which received the award for bringing in the highest number of members and District XIX for the highest percentage during the 2009-2010 membership year. This year's prestigious E.L. Galyean Award, the association's highest honor, was given to Dr. Ruth Cameron Amend.



The TRTA House of Delegates elected the following 2010-2011 officers: Herbert Norris, President; Maridell Fryar, First Vice-President; Mary Jane Hamilton, Second Vice-President; and Francis Plemmons, Secretary/Treasurer. We look forward to the excellence this leadership team will surely offer our great association!

This year's events were a tremendous success thanks to the hard work and dedication of hundreds of volunteers in District XI, the TRTA Board and leadership team, and the state office staff. We now look forward to next year's convention, which will be held in the great city of San Antonio during its annual Fiesta celebration. ★

## 2010 TRTA District Fall Conventions

<b>I</b>	10/29 Fri	9:15 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	First Christian Church	1400 North 10th St. • McAllen	Gordon Taylor
<b>II</b>	10/28 Thu	8:30 a.m.–noon	Holiday Inn Airport	5549 Leopard St. • Corpus Christi	Margaret De Ville
<b>III</b>	10/27 Wed	9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.	Brackenridge Plantation Park	891 Brackenridge Pkwy. • Edna	Dr. Martha Jones
<b>IV</b>	9/22 Wed	9 a.m.–2 p.m.	The Power Center	12401 S. Post Oak Rd. • Houston	Dottie Gardner
<b>V</b>	9/23 Thu	10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.	St. Mark Episcopal Church	680 Calder St. • Beaumont	Roy Tully
<b>VI</b>	9/24 Fri	8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Region VI ESC	3332 Montgomery Rd. • Huntsville	Mary Sue Ribardo
<b>VII</b>	9/28 Tue	9 a.m.–noon	First Baptist Church	301 W. Ferguson • Tyler	Willie Boyd
<b>VIII</b>	9/23 Thu	9 a.m.–2 p.m.	Queen City Baptist Church	206 Marietta St. • Queen City	Treaca Huston
<b>IX</b>	9/21 Tue	9:30 a.m.	Region IX ESC	301 Loop 11 • Wichita Falls	Lou Jagers
<b>X</b>	9/20 Mon	9 a.m.–2 p.m.	Courtyard Marriott	210 E. Stacy Rd. • Allen	LaWynn Rogers
<b>XI</b>	10/11 Thu	8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.	Brewer High School	1025 W. Loop 820 North • Ft. Worth	Bill Barnes
<b>XII</b>	9/21 Tue	8:30 a.m.–noon	Region XII ESC	2101 W. Loop 340 • Waco	Don Vardeman
<b>XIII</b>	9/20 Mon	8:30 a.m.–noon	Region XIII ESC	5701 Springdale Rd. • Austin	Ruth Spear
<b>XIV</b>	9/22 Wed	8:30 a.m.–noon	Region XIV ESC	1850 Hwy. 351 • Abilene	Tommie Jo Lindsey
<b>XV</b>	9/23 Thu	9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.	Brownwood ISD Admin. Bldg.	2707 Southside Dr. (4th St.) • Brownwood	Nancy Byler
<b>XVI</b>	9/23 Thu	8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Region XVI ESC	5800 Bell St. • Amarillo	Carrol Duncan
<b>XVII</b>	9/24 Fri	9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Lubbock Women's Club	2020 Broadway • Lubbock	Mary Sexton
<b>XVIII</b>	9/20 Mon	8:30 a.m.–2 p.m.	Region XVIII ESC	2811 La Force Blvd. • Midland	Loyce Phillips
<b>XIX</b>	9/21 Tue	10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.	Vista Hills Country Club	2210 Trawood • El Paso	Sally Soderstrom
<b>XX</b>	10/26 Tue	9 a.m.–2 p.m.	Ye Kendall Inn	128 W. Blanco • Boerne	Kenneth Hanson



1



2



3



4



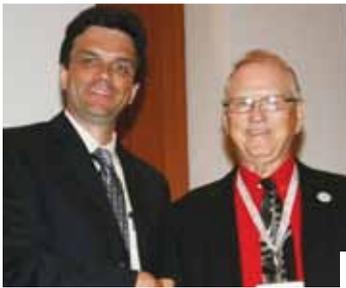
5



6



7



8



9



10



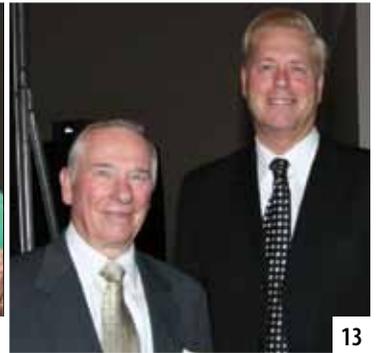
11

## TRTA 57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

- 1 Louise Williams, Helena Pierson, Lena Gilmore, and Dottie Gardner (District IV)
- 2 Bill White and President Dora Scott-Nichols
- 3 Rudolph Martinez, Jr., Jose Lugo, and Aubrey Cherry
- 4 Mary Jane Hamilton and Jerry McCullough, AISD Superintendent
- 5 S. Eloyce Green, Herbert Norris, and Carolyn Womack
- 6 Gene Stallings, keynote speaker
- 7 Representative Vicki Truitt and Tim Lee
- 8 Brian Gunthrie (Teacher Retirement System of TX) and Tom Pritchard
- 9 E.L. Galyean Award recipient Dr. Ruth Amend (center) with family
- 10 Larry and Janie Davis (District XII)
- 11 Banquet entertainer Matt Walch
- 12 Walks-A-Million Awards presented by Carolyn Lance (center) to District 14 and Franklin County RSEA
- 13 Linus Wright and Ronnie Jung (Teacher Retirement System of TX)
- 14 Barbara Belvins and Linda Golden (District X)
- 15 Carlos Ortiz, Jesus and Barbara Soto (District XX)
- 16 Laurie's Lotions, exhibitor
- 17 LITERATI "The Plastic Bookmark", exhibitor
- 18 LaQuinta, exhibitor



12



13



14



15



16



17



18

# PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

FOR CERTAIN RETIREES RETURNING TO WORK



Professional Liability Insurance is available for Regular Members (receiving an annuity from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas) of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) who have returned to work in a public school district or public college/university either as a substitute teacher or in a full-time professional capacity other than administration and are subject to the exclusions of the policy. (For policy exclusions, contact

John A. Barclay, III, 512.476.6566.)

You MUST receive your paycheck from the ISD, NOT from a third-party employer to be eligible for this insurance and you MUST be a TRTA Regular Member. The TRTA-endorsed group professional liability plan through John A. Barclay, Inc. has an annual charge of \$39.00 per person.

Insurance Premium per Member \$35.00 + State Taxes and Fees (4.91%) \$1.72 + Association's Administrative Fees \$2.28 = TOTAL \$39.00

The policy pays:

- ◆ Coverage A: Up to \$1,000,000 per insured, per occurrence/\$3,000,000 per occurrence
- ◆ Coverage B: Up to \$5,000 per claim, per insured. Subject to the \$10,000 annual aggregate for criminal proceedings and/or sexual misconduct \$1,000,000 annual aggregate, all claims under Coverage B
- ◆ Coverage C: \$1,000 per bail bond, per insured

Effective date of individual's coverage begins on date TRTA receives application (within the coverage year August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011). A policy summary will be mailed to the participant after the application is processed.

*Note: The duty of the insurer to defend extends even to the groundless, false and frivolous suits or accusations.*



## PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City + State + Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone + Date/Year Retired (MM/DD/YY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Current Position Held (teacher, counselor, substitute, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
School District by which you are paid

I am a current TRTA member and wish to enroll in the professional liability insurance plan for the school year 2010-2011, and meet the above criteria. Enclosed is a check for \$39.00 (see itemization of charge above) made payable to TRTA. Submit this form and a check to: TRTA | 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 | Austin, TX 78701-1957

**EFFECTIVE GROUP POLICY DATE: AUGUST 1, 2010 – JULY 31, 2011**

## TRTA Dental & Vision Program

### Open Enrollment Means Great News!

TRTA's Dental & Vision open enrollment deadline is August 16, 2010. During this special enrollment, you have the rare opportunity to join the dental plan with no waiting periods for covered services! Since most dental plans require a 12-month waiting period on certain services without prior coverage, this is an exceptional opportunity!

Without dental insurance, the cost of care can get very expensive in Texas. Common procedures such as root canals, bridges, and crowns can cost more than \$900 each! However, with rich benefit levels and first-day access to all covered services, this plan can help ease the financial burden of dental expenses.

TRTA Dental Plan Outstanding Features:

- No waiting periods for covered services when you enroll by August 16, 2010!
- Freedom to use your own dentist, or select a network dentist and save 20-30%
- Dental Rewards—enables a portion of your unused benefit to rollover to the next year!
- High calendar year maximum of \$1,500
- No deductible for preventative services
- Rates & benefits guaranteed through July 2012

TRTA Vision Plan Outstanding Features:

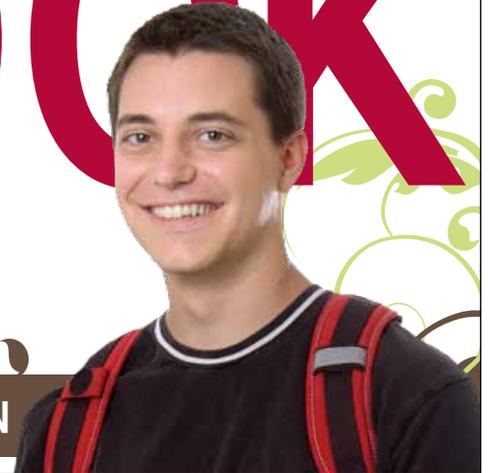
- Eye Exams covered in full every twelve months after minimal co-pay
- Lenses covered in full every twelve months after minimal co-pay
- Savings on progressive and transitional lenses
- Frames covered up to your allowance every twenty-four months
- No waiting periods!

If you have any questions, or would like to request an enrollment package, contact AMBA at 800.258.7041.



Enroll online today at [www.trtabenefits.com](http://www.trtabenefits.com)

# OUTLOOK



## LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

### FIRST RECIPIENT SELECTED

Ms. Helen Jo Crump shares her story

11

### 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Scholarships and grants announced

12

### NEED HELP?

For additional information, email [help@trtf.org](mailto:help@trtf.org) or call 800.880.1650.

## FIRST "A HELPING HAND" RECIPIENT SELECTED

As you may have read in the previous issue of *The VOICE*, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) launched its newest charitable program "A Helping Hand" in February. "A Helping Hand" provides aid to public education retirees in critical need. After a year of research and hard work, the Foundation started the program in four pilot districts: 8, 12, 17, and 20.

TRTF is now pleased to announce the first "A Helping Hand" grant recipient, Ms. Helen Jo Crump. Helen has asked us to share her story with you.

At 85 years old, Ms. Crump is an active, young spirit. She is a retired elementary school secretary from Amarillo, though many people in the Panhandle know her as "The Hat Lady." She entertains crowds with music, alternating her headwear from her collection of over 200 hats.

Ms. Crump works elections at San Jacinto Elementary School. Former students recognize her, wondering if she is still the school's beloved secretary. Ms. Crump says that when she began serving as the school's only secretary in 1963, there were 600 students and she earned \$200 per month. By the time she retired in 1979, she made \$375.

Times have certainly changed, but time hasn't changed Helen Jo Crump. In fact, she is the oldest active member of the Amarillo Beta Sigma Phi sorority, dedicating 67 years of her life to the women's service organization.

Recently, when Helen's 1990 Oldsmobile was in need of new tires, she questioned where she would find the funds to buy them. Her monthly income from her TRS pension is minimal, less than \$600. But Helen, as she says, "enjoys life and enjoys people," and sought out assistance to replace three tires on her vehicle so she could continue doing the things she loves.

Through the help of TRTF board member John Krodel and Allegra Bush, Helen was able to apply for a grant from "A Helping Hand." Instead of replacing three of Helen's tires, TRTF replaced all four. As Helen explains "guess what I got? A whole new set of tires! I don't have to worry about getting a flat now!"

The Foundation is honored to present its first grant from "A Helping Hand" to Ms. Crump. Helen embodies what the Foundation represents: dedication and service to public education. It is because of people like her and you that we are able to succeed in our mission. Your generosity helped this wonderful lady today, and will help countless other retirees tomorrow and for many years to come. Thank you for your support of "A Helping Hand" and the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation.



# 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

## 2010 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCE

During the 57th Annual TRTA Convention in Arlington, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation announced its 2010 student scholarship and classroom assistance grant recipients. During the Foundation Luncheon on April 14, board member La Vonne Rogers presented information on each of the recipients.

Each scholarship recipient will receive \$500 to use towards their college education. All recipients are majoring in education and are related to a member of TRTA. The 2010 TRTF student scholarship recipients are: Brianna Bonnette, related to Billy Hall of the Smith County RTSPA (District 7). Wendy Neal, related to Ronald and Penny Eubanks of Kaufman, Texas (at-large). Karlee Wright, related to Nancy Ogden of the Northeast Hunt County RTA (District 10). Leslye Richmond, related to Dallie Johnston of the Smith County RTSPA (District 7). Guy David Nell, related to Marilyn Byrd of the West Grayson RSP (District 10). Kayci Cox, related to Philip and Rosemary Shook of the Hereford RSEA (District 16). Kendle Templeton, related to Vivian Henderson of Houston, Texas (at-large). William Bonner, related to Emily Bonner of the Texarkana-Bowie County RTA (District 8). Kyra Sloan, related to Dan Sloan of the Knox County RSPA (District 9). Natalie Berry, related to James and Angela Berry of Grand Prairie, Texas (at-large).

Each classroom assistance grant recipient will receive \$500 to use towards a unique project or learning platform that enhances students' learning. The grant recipients are: Justin Harper, a criminal justice teacher at Jack E. Singley Academy H.S. in Irving. Heather Hattori, a science teacher at John Guyer H.S. in Denton. Mansoor Kapasi, an algebra and geometry teacher at Austin Can! Academy H.S. in Austin. Lisa Lester, a science teacher at Junction Elementary in Junction. Elizabeth Varughese, an ESL teacher at R.L. Turner H.S. in Carrollton. Josephine Rodriguez, a reading and language arts teacher at Mirabeau Lamar Elementary in San Antonio. Dena Davis, a science teacher at Comanche Middle School in Comanche. Maria Miller, an art and digital design teacher at Weslaco East H.S. in Weslaco. Joanna Marsh, an agriculture science teacher at Cypress Lakes H.S. in Katy. Tracy Rich, a health teacher at George Junior H.S. in Rosenberg.

To read more about the unique qualifications of the aforementioned individuals, please visit our web site at [www.trtf.org](http://www.trtf.org). Congratulations to all student scholarship and classroom assistance grant winners!

## TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION OUTLOOK

LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

إني أريد  
I WANT TO  
HELP!

DONATION  
CARD  
DONATIONS ARE  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please accept my gift in memory or  
in honor of (circle one):

Please accept my donation of:  
 \$25     \$50     \$100     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are tax deductible. Enclose a check, completed donation card and send to:  
Texas Retired Teachers Foundation • 313 E. 12th St., Ste. 250 • Austin, TX 78701-1956