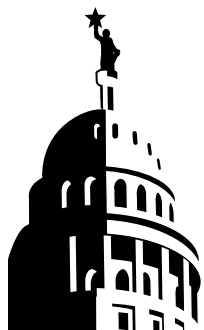


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The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation
CHANGING LIVES EVERY DAY!



FOUNDATION ANNUAL APPEAL INSIDE

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation: Changing Lives Every Day!

Education can be viewed in many ways. It serves practical purposes, enabling students to develop skills in math, writing, and many other subjects that apply to everyday life circumstances. On a deeper level, it provides social and emotional engagement, helping students learn to build relationships, work as team members, and develop compassion for their classmates.

The role of the educator is multifaceted and may vary from person to person or from role to role, but one constant remains true: **education and educators change lives, every day!**

Our members—retired teachers, principals, superintendents, school bus drivers, administrative personnel, cafeteria employees, and more—spent decades nurturing the hearts and minds of millions of Texas school children.

There were times when our members took just five minutes to help a student who was frustrated and needed help grasping a concept, and they changed that child's perspective forever. There were times when our members saw a student who needed encouragement, and their positive words and guidance meant that a bad day became a good day, perhaps a day the child would never forget.

Though most of our members at TRTA are no longer active in the classroom on a daily basis, their compassion and dedication to the cause remains fierce and protective.

Through TRTA, our members advocate for their own benefits but also for the secure future of active teachers and those who will become educators. Through the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF), our members extend their generosity through donations to causes that have genuine, tangible impacts on the lives of retirees, current classroom teachers and students pursuing degrees in education.

Our members continue to change lives in measurable ways every day by supporting TRTF's charitable programs: "A Helping Hand," Classroom Assistance Grants and Student Scholarships. Since 2008, our members have given over \$207,000 to change the lives of educators of the past, present, and future!

Please be sure to see our annual appeal letter and donation card on pages 11 and 12.

"A Helping Hand" to Your Fellow Retirees

"A Helping Hand," first launched as a pilot program in 2010, has become

TRTF's most recognizable charitable program. Its recipients are people you may know, but may not hear about.

TRTF President Jamie Larson, prior to joining the Board of Trustees in 2014, was inspired to become involved after seeing his former band hall custodian receiving food at a food bank, thinking she was there to volunteer.

As Jamie stated in a Foundation video last year, education employees are "proud people and don't often ask for help." Most had very modest incomes while working, and most survive on modest retirement benefits. The average monthly annuity of a TRS retiree is just \$2000, though 30% of retirees (over 105,000 people) receive less than \$1000 per month!

Jamie recalls from his teaching days that "the very first person that the kids see in the morning when they go to school is that bus driver." As retirees, you "may not know what their situation is, but when you do find out, your heart is broken sometimes, and the Foundation is how you can get help to those people."

TRTF has provided more than \$79,000 in grants to 84 TRS retirees through "A Helping Hand" thanks to your donations, as well as \$41,000 in grants via the West Relief Fund in 2013 after the explosion occurred in West, Texas.

Though our recipients generally choose to remain anonymous, many call the TRTF office in Austin after receiving help expressing their

Help Us Change Lives!

See our annual appeal and donation card on pages 11 and 12, or call us at 1.800.880.1650 to donate over the phone!

Be sure you are signed up for Tim Lee's *Inside Line* e-newsletter (you can sign up at www.trta.org) so you won't miss our Foundation Month video series! TRTF will begin releasing the videos in late October and throughout November. Feel free to share them with fellow retirees, family members, friends, and members of the community.



gratitude. For one recent recipient, replacing her furnace means that she will not suffer through another cold winter without heat, as she did in 2014. For another, thanks to TRTF covering the cost of his property taxes, he and his family will be able to remain in their home. After being in a coma for several months, he felt he had nowhere to turn to protect all he and his family had worked towards for many years.

When you think about “A Helping Hand,” please know that you are helping a fellow retiree to resolve a problem that otherwise could have left them without a home or unable to buy food. Your generosity unequivocally changes their lives.

The Foundation assists many retirees who have fallen on hard times and are facing unexpected financial burdens. Applications for assistance through this program are accepted year-round and the confidentiality of the applicant is protected. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact us at 1.800.880.1650 or help@trtf.org.

Classroom Assistance Grants: New Tools, Same Passion

TRTF’s Classroom Assistance Grant program changes not only the lives of teachers, but the many students they influence on a daily basis. Since 2008, TRTF has provided \$41,000 in grants to active educators all across Texas.

Barbara Stockon, who works at Cherokee ISD as a junior high ASK teacher and the Dean of Students for students in grades K–12, says “my ultimate career goal is to impact students’ lives in a positive way, allowing them to see themselves as we see them, and to go on and do great things.”

In 2015, she won a \$500 grant from TRTF, utilizing the money to purchase an iPad. Using the iPad, students in her Anti-Bullying and Character Education courses will create scripts and make short films about social issues.

Barbara is the perfect example of why

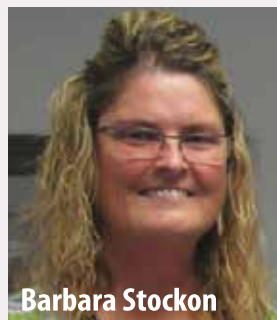
the legacy of public education is so vital. “Those that influenced me the most were a few teachers in middle and high school that accepted only the best from me.” It is this sentiment that encouraged her to teach, and that same sentiment that she has been passing on to her students every day for 26 years.

Louise Prihoda also won a grant this year, and is using it to purchase measurement, calculation, and observational tools for multiple areas of scientific study at Danbury High School. “The grant is making it easier for me to get my students to be excited about science and easier for them to problem-solve, gather and analyze data, and make informed decisions.”

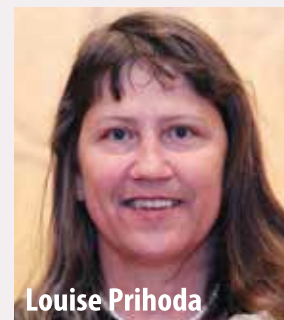
Like so many of our TRTA members, Louise feels that her greatest contributions and accomplishments are “the legacy” of her students. “Some of my most rewarding experiences have been when former students come back to visit and to see how they continue to use science to make the world a better place.”

Her students have gone on to become science teachers, engineers, dentists, nurses, and many other science-related careers. “I am proud of each one who has grown in their ability to interact with their world, whether they choose to become a welder or choose to become a doctor. To change the attitude of a single student to have the confidence to take on whatever challenges they face is all the success I could ever dream of.”

Robert Barbosa is a history teacher at Sharyland High School in Mission. Robert received a \$500 grant from TRTF which he will use to purchase a set of 3-D printing pens. His students will use the pens to create miniature replicas of significant historical



Barbara Stockon



Louise Prihoda



Rebekah Noey



Bailey Bohlken

monuments, and will then explain why their monuments should be preserved for future generations. “This is a cross-curricular activity that will allow students who are strong in STEM to demonstrate their abilities in history,” says Robert.

Robert, a student himself in a master’s program at University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, says his teaching goal is to “make instruction enjoyable for students by incorporating innovative lessons” and to make history “more than just dates and events, but rather accomplishments and occurrences that continue to impact us today.” He cites his mother, Rosalinda Barbosa (a Pre-K teacher at Leal Elementary), as his inspiration.

Scholarship Program: The Future of Texas Public Education

TRTF’s scholarship program helps students who are studying to become teachers. All of the Foundation’s 91 recipients are related to members of TRTA, and many were influenced by them to pursue their career path.

Rebekah Noey is a sophomore majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Texas Tech University. Rebekah used her \$500

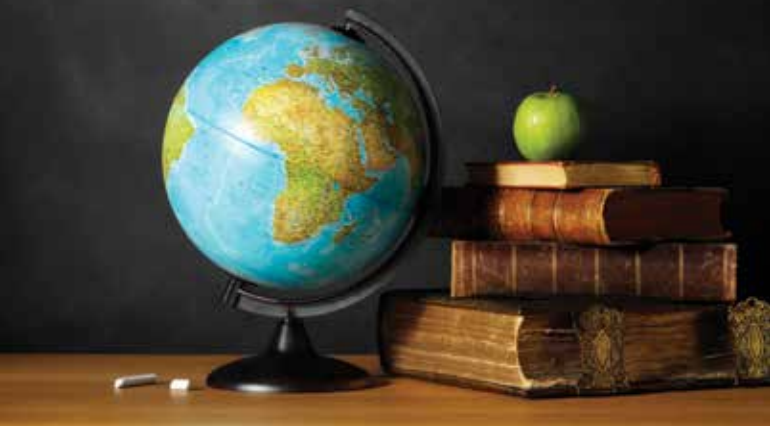
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

November is Foundation Month!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) helps educators of the past, present and future through "A Helping Hand," Classroom Assistance Grants and Student Scholarships and promotes a positive image of public education in Texas through the Legacy Campaign.

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

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



scholarship from TRTF to attend summer school at a community college in her hometown in Spring, Texas. Receiving the scholarship motivated her to "keep a 4.0 GPA so I can apply for additional scholarships to keep funding my college work."

Rebekah credits her parents with inspiring her to pursue a career as a middle school teacher. "My parents made a difference in their students' lives. They loved teaching and I want to follow in their footsteps!"

Glendie Cornelison is a sophomore at the University of North Texas. She is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education, with plans to teach either fourth or fifth grade. When asked how receiving the TRTF scholarship impacted her, Glendie said "it gave me a boost of confidence that there are people out there that are willing to help me succeed."

Influenced by the compassion and

success of her educator parents, Glendie says "(they) are the most amazing people. Their encouragement is the reason why I continue to pursue a career in education."

Her scholarship money has helped her pay for her living arrangements while attending school. "Not having to worry as much about money is also helping me maintain my GPA," says Glendie.

Bailey Bohlken, a two-time TRTF scholarship winner, is a junior at Mary-Hardin Baylor with a major in Generalist Education with a Math

Concentration. She wants to become a middle or high school math teacher and coach. "Receiving the scholarship has lightened a financial burden that is on my shoulders because of the cost of a higher education," says Bailey.

Like so many of our recipients, Bailey comes from a family of educators. "I have seen them teach students not just about content areas, but also about life," says Bailey. "I saw the passion they had and realized from a young age that teaching was more than just homework and tests: teaching is changing lives."

Though TRTF has enjoyed offering scholarships to many deserving students over the years, recent discussions have led to the creation of an innovative way to help future educators. Details are still being discussed, but by 2017, TRTF will offer scholarship funds to graduating college seniors and first-year teachers to help them begin their careers.

TRTF, as always, continues to support educators of the past, present and future, and this change to the scholarship program will give new teachers the funds they need to start their careers on the right foot. Many times, once a student graduates from college, scholarship opportunities and resources are not as readily available as they were while in school. TRTF hopes to fill that missing link, helping brand new teachers pay for their certifications and purchase supplies for their very first classroom.

November is Foundation Month!

We appreciate all that TRTA members do to help the Foundation change lives every day! Since 2008, your donations have helped 84 retirees get back on their feet, 10 residents of West recover from a devastating disaster, 82 classroom teachers implement innovative projects benefitting their students, and 91 future educators pursue their education.

Your donations also support our Legacy Campaign, which promotes a positive image of public education in Texas and has allowed us to give \$20,000 to the Texas Teacher of the Year program.

The TRTA Board of Directors has designated November as Foundation Awareness Month, a time to share positive news about how you and your fellow retirees are helping us change lives every day! TRTF is also using this time to conduct its annual fundraising campaign. Please see our annual appeal letter on page 11 of *The VOICE*, and learn how you can donate to TRTF.

Throughout the fall, the Foundation is releasing a video series featuring real stories of teachers, students, and retirees whose lives you've changed for the better thanks to your generosity and goodwill. Please view them in the *Inside Line* and share them with your local unit members, active teachers in your area, and your community. Visit our website, www.trtf.org, to learn more about program recipients and to watch our videos, which TRTF will release in late October and November.

District Presidents Leadership Training Conference Held in Austin

TRTA's district presidents met in Austin July 7-9 for their annual District Presidents Leadership Training Conference (DPLTC). The twenty district presidents arrived from all across the state to receive comprehensive training from the TRTA Board of Directors about their manifold roles and responsibilities as leaders in the organization.

The conference served as an opportunity for all continuing and incoming district presidents to become acquainted with one another. One of the primary focuses of the conference was to inform presidents of the recent accomplishments of the 84th Legislative Session and the challenges to come in 2017, particularly for TRS-Care.

As many of our members know, the Legislature has formed an interim study group to assess the health care program between now and the beginning of the 85th Legislative Session. District presidents will serve as vital connections between the state office and the organization's 259 local units, helping to rally the organization's membership to participate in meetings of the study group throughout 2016.

Along with new initiatives, district presidents gleaned and learned how to disseminate information from state level committees to their district and local unit counterparts. Facilitating the work of the health care, retirement education, community and volunteer service, informative and protective services, member benefits, organizational affairs, and local unit support committees is a key role for a TRTA district president.

The presidents also elected their District Presidents Council, three representatives who serve on the TRTA Board of Directors. Council Chairman is Marcy Cann of District 4, Vice-Chairman is Robert Gillette of District 14 and Recorder is June Cooper of District 17.

The presidents returned home excited to face the challenges of the coming year. TRTA is grateful for the active participation of our district leaders and looks forward to working with them to make our association vocal, cohesive, and stronger than ever! 📌

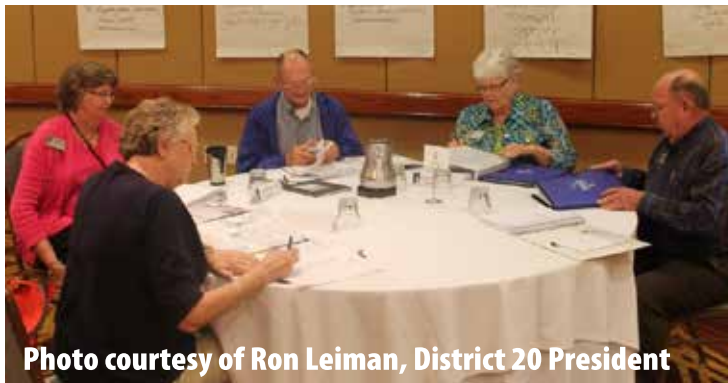


Photo courtesy of Ron Leiman, District 20 President



Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

Take charge of your health!

In partnership with TRTA, Texercise is here to help you and your family members engage in healthy lifestyle behaviors! By exercising regularly, eating a healthy diet with plenty of water and reducing your stress, you can stay fit and keep up with the grandkids year after year.

If you don't already have an exercise routine, getting started is easy! Start slow, just a few minutes once a week, choosing activities or exercises you enjoy. Gradually increase each workout until you are up to 30 minutes a day. Choose regular days and times to exercise, and stick to your schedule to develop a habit. Be sure to listen to your body, reducing or increasing activity as you feel comfortable and able.

Need ideas on ways to get started? The Surgeon General recently issued the "Step It Up!" call to action, encouraging everyone to incorporate more walking into their lives. This simple change can improve your health and prevent future health problems. Plus, you can get friends and family involved by setting aside time each week to walk together!

To learn more and receive a free copy of the Texercise handbook and DVD, visit www.texercise.com or call 1.800.889.8595. Texercise is an initiative of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services that provides free resources to encourage people to exercise and eat well.



★ PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE

Welcome and bienvenidos to the 2015-2016 TRTA year! The State Public Relations Committee commends all district and local counterparts for the amazing job they are doing to make TRTA known as the organization working for all TRS retirees and active members. They are using their district and local webpages, creating and promoting Facebook pages, using Twitter and involving local media outlets!

2014 was a great year for the Children's Book Project. Ninety-five percent of TRTA's local units participated in the collection and distributed 139,438 books to children across Texas! Local units are doing an amazing job. We must continue promoting and recognizing their achievements! Publicity is essential, and must start at the local level.

A big congratulations to all 20 Districts for having their webpages up and running! District webpages are very important because they promote the wonderful activities the districts are involved with and have important information to recruit and retain members. Our next goal is to work with the local units to set up and maintain their local webpages.

TRTA Multimedia Specialist Roy Varney has created an interactive map that will guide new members to a local unit near them when they join online! He also created a video that can help local units create their webpages. The video can be found on www.trta.org under the Committees tab, Public Relations Committee. For technical support, please email roy@trta.org. Roy will also host a variety of training sessions at the 2016 TRTA Convention.

The State Public Relations Committee has also created a Facebook page where we encourage public relations chairmen to share what is going on in their locals.

The Public Relations Committee members are Chairman Patricia Macias (2), Terri Navrkal (17), Teddie Poindexter (16), La Wynn Rogers (10) and Sally Soderstrom (19). We are committed to working with all district and local PR chairmen on a monthly basis. You can help promote TRTA by using the promotional items found on the next page.

Patricia Macias

2014-2016 TRTA Second Vice-President/Public Relations Committee Chairman



TRTA UPCOMING DEADLINES

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, 2015." Download the 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.

Children's Book Project, Volunteer Hours, Health Care and Retirement Events Reports: Due February 15 and March 1

Local unit reports are due to the District Committee Chairman by February 15, 2016. District reports are due to the State Committee Representative by March 1, 2016.

Delegate Information: Due March 1

Names of all convention delegates are due in the TRTA office by March 1, 2016. Information and forms will be mailed to District and Local Unit Presidents in December. Local Unit Delegates: Two (2) delegates for the first one hundred (100) TRTA members or fraction thereof; and, one (1) delegate for each additional 100 TRTA members in a Local Unit or fraction thereof. Automatic Delegates: Members of the TRTA Board of Directors; Chairmen of the TRTA Standing Committees; District Presidents, First Vice-Presidents, and Second Vice-Presidents; and Past Presidents of TRTA.

2015-2016 TRTA BOARD

PRESIDENT

Fran Plemmons

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Maridell Fryar

FIRST VP/MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Byler

SECOND VP/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Patricia Macias

SECRETARY/TREASURER & FINANCE

Leroy DeHaven

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Marcy Cann

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN

Robert (Bob) Gillette

DIST. PRESIDENTS COUNCIL RECORDER

June Cooper

LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN

Bill Barnes

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS/CHAIRMAN

Larry Davis

HISTORIAN

Dr. Mary Widmier

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICE **Sherry**

Hubbard, HEALTH CARE **Mary Ann Dolezal**,

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES **Patti**

Faulkner, LEADERSHIP TRAINING **Wayne Byrd**,

LOCAL UNIT SUPPORT **Lynn Granzin**, MEMBER

BENEFITS **Pat Toland**, RETIREMENT EDUCATION

Gaylene Skaggs

TRTA PROMOTIONAL ITEMS FORM

(Please print)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Please mail the form to TRTA, Attn: B Zimmer, 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78701. All prices include sales tax. Minimum \$25.00 purchase required for credit card orders. Orders will be processed and mailed within three weeks.

Decals

\$1.00 per decal x _____ \$ _____

Stylus

\$2.00 per stylus & box x _____ \$ _____

Luggage Tags

\$3.00 per luggage tag x _____ \$ _____

Note Cards & Envelopes

\$4.00 for a set of 20 x _____ \$ _____

Officer Lapel Pin

\$5.00 per lapel pin x _____ \$ _____

Member Lapel Pin

\$5.00 per lapel pin x _____ \$ _____

Ground shipping and handling charges:

Up to \$35.00=\$5.00

\$35.01 to \$100.00=\$7.00

\$100.01 & up=free shipping

TOTAL \$ _____



Decal \$1.00, size 5.75 x 3.25



Stylus \$2.00, size 5.25 x 0.5



Luggage Tag \$3.00, size 4.25 x 2.5



Note Cards & Envelopes
\$4.00, size 5.5 x 4.25



Lapel Pin \$5.00, size 1 inch

PLEASE SELECT ONE PAYMENT OPTION:

Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Credit card # _____ Expiration _____

Please charge my: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Signature for credit card order _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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TRTA 63rd Annual Convention Planning Underway!

Convention Schedule

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Delegate Certification and Registration

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Exhibits

11:00 a.m. – Noon

TRTA Board of Directors Meeting

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

District Presidents Meeting

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Foundation Trustees Meeting

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Facilitators Meeting

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

8:15 p.m.

Sunday Stroll in the Mall

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Delegate Certification and Registration

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Exhibits

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies

10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Caucus Meetings for District 1–10

11:15 a.m. – Noon

Caucus Meetings for District 11–20

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Foundation Luncheon

1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Training/Informational Sessions

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Social Hour

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Awards Dinner

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Stilwell Breakfast

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Delegate Certification and Registration

9:00 a.m. – Noon

House of Delegates

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Legislative Luncheon

1:30 p.m. – TBD

House of Delegates

TBD

TRTA Board of Directors Meeting

TRTA members are ready for all that Houston has to offer as TRTA hosts its 63rd Annual Convention April 10–12, 2016! This year's convention theme, "Hearts of Texas: TRTA Proud," will demonstrate the strength and dedication of TRTA's 259 local units and their homegrown, grassroots advocacy. What better place to bolster TRTA's network than in District 4, a region with more than 20 local units?

Hosted at the Westin Galleria on 5060 West Alabama, TRTA members will be participating in numerous training and informational sessions, as well as electing association leaders for 2016–2018. The Westin Galleria is connected to the Galleria Mall, allowing for great shopping and dining opportunities, and even a group Stroll in the Mall on Sunday, April 10!

The hotel is now taking reservations. The group rate of \$125 (+ tax) per night is good through March 18, 2016, but rooms are filling quickly! Note that the group rate will apply for stays April 9–13.

Call 1.800.937.8461 and be sure to ask for the "TRTA 2016 Annual Convention" group rate! For online reservations, please visit the home page of the TRTA website (www.trta.org).

TRTA has released a tentative schedule of events to help you plan your travel. Last year, TRTA held a truncated convention due to the Texas

Legislature being in session. In 2016, TRTA will return to the regular three-day convention format.

Most attendees are expected to arrive for registration on day one of the convention on Sunday, April 10. There will be a Welcome Reception in the evening, which is free to all guests.

Opening Ceremonies will start the day on Monday, April 11, followed by district caucus meetings and a full afternoon of training and informational sessions for district and local chairmen and convention attendees. The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) will host a luncheon at 12:15 p.m., when members will be able to present gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend or colleague. At 5:30 p.m., attendees can enjoy a Social Hour before the evening's Awards Dinner. The E.L. Galyean Service Award recipient will be announced at that time.

On Tuesday, April 12, the Stilwell Retirement Residence will host a breakfast bright and early at 7:00 a.m. Association business begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. during the First Meeting of the House of Delegates. A Legislative Luncheon will be held at 12:15 p.m., featuring a panel of legislators as well as TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee. The Second House of Delegates will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end when association business has concluded.

Guest speakers and ticket prices are still being determined for all events, however, TRTA members will be able to register for convention activities later this year. Look for the registration form for all events in the fourth quarter issue of *The VOICE*.

District 4 is proud to host the 63rd Annual TRTA Convention in Houston, a dynamic city with museums, sporting events, theatrical productions and even NASA! There is always something to do in this Southern-hospitality-meets-urban-chic city! See you in '16! 📍



TRTA Launches Online Membership Dues Feature

By Roy Varney, TRTA Multimedia Specialist

Starting in July, TRTA began rolling out its new online membership features. Join Now and Renew Now are taking the stress and hassle out of becoming a TRTA member. New and returning TRTA members can now pay their dues through our website, www.trta.org.

Even if you've already renewed your dues, we encourage you to visit our website (www.trta.org) to see just how easy it is to maintain your TRTA membership. No longer will you have to call the state office or send in mail to renew your dues. Join Now and Renew Now are easy and it literally takes just a few minutes to continue your membership in the nation's largest organization of retired school personnel.

Of course, TRTA will still offer phone and mail options to new and renewing members. We are complementing our membership recruitment efforts to meet the needs of all members without eliminating other payment methods.

Your membership in TRTA is important! We would never be able to achieve goals like filling the \$768 million TRS-Care budget shortfall without a strong and vocal membership base. Your letters, the support of our countless volunteers and the grassroots advocacy led by TRTA's local units are the reasons that we can continue to protect your TRS benefits.

The world is changing quickly with the advent of digital communications, and TRTA must evolve with it if we want to make our voices powerful. Your legislators are online, and so are the organizations that are trying to take away your benefits.

If you read Tim Lee's email newsletter, the *Inside Line*, you are aware that just this year there have been multiple attacks against the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) from the well-funded, hyper-aggressive organization known as the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF). According to the non-profit aggregation site GuideStar, TPPF pulled in more than \$5.2 million in revenue in 2014.

Tim Lee and TRTA President Fran Plemmons have been swift and decisive in their rebuttals. They have set the facts straight and protected your benefits!

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "our lives begin to end the day we become

silent about things that matter." This rings true with our vital and necessary retirement system. Your membership is the key ingredient to stopping organizations like TPPF from stripping you of your hard-earned TRS benefits!

This is really an exciting time to be a TRTA member! Our organization is growing, and it's all because we have inspiring leadership and intelligent, passionate members like you.

The addition of the Join Now and Renew Now websites is making TRTA more efficient, and now is the best time to reach out to your fellow retired educators to join and renew with TRTA! ★



TRTA INTERACTIVE MAP

TRTA has also developed an interactive map aimed at helping our members find and contact their local units. The map may be found on the TRTA website by visiting the home page at www.trta.org and clicking on the text Get Involved (inside the box entitled Local Units). Members joining online receive a link to the local unit interactive map as their final step.



TRTA Welcomes New Staff Member

TRTA is pleased to welcome Hope Osborn to our growing family of talented, dedicated staff!

Hope Osborn, TRTA's new Team Support Coordinator and Tim Lee's executive assistant, comes from a family of teachers. She is proud to have attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she graduated with honors and majored in Government and Middle Eastern Studies with a minor in Arabic.

Ms. Osborn is very experienced in the legislative arena, having worked in both the Texas Senate and House as a staffer as well as for the corporate law firm Beatty, Bangle, and Strama, P.C. In her spare time, Hope enjoys playing chess, practicing yoga, and stand-up paddle-boarding on Lady Bird Lake. You can reach Hope at the state office in Austin at hope@trta.org.



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



Donate today!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) changes lives every day!

Since 2008, the generosity of TRTA members has helped 84 retirees get back on their feet, 10 residents of West recover from a devastating disaster, 82 classroom teachers implement innovative projects and learning methods for their students, and 91 future educators continue pursuing their education.

Over \$207,000 has been given to educators of the past, present and future around the state!

Your donation can mean so many things, but changing a life is the ultimate result.

Your donation means that a retiree living on an income of less than \$800 per month is able to receive much-needed dental work, a new air conditioner, or pay for a medical alert service.

Your donation means that a classroom teacher will teach her students how to do CPR, how to grow food that will be donated back to the community, and even how to write and publish their own books!

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

Together, our charitable programs ("A Helping Hand," classroom assistance grants, and student scholarships), along with our educational program (the Legacy Campaign), keep the compassion and dedication to education alive!

If every TRTA member gave just \$10, we could raise an astonishing \$800,000!

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

This is our annual appeal. Using *The VOICE* for our appeal saves thousands of dollars in postage, meaning thousands more can be dedicated to our charitable programs. You may use the card found on the back of *The VOICE* and the enclosed postage paid envelope to send in your tax deductible donation.

Thank you for helping us change lives every day!

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



Student Scholarships



Legacy Campaign



Classroom Assistance Grants



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

FEATURE YOUR LOCAL UNIT IN *THE VOICE*! LOCAL UNITS ARE THE HEART OF TRTA!

We want to feature your local unit in *The VOICE*! Submit an update about what your local unit has been doing this fall to info@trta.org. Please limit your submission to 300 words or less, and be sure to attach at least one high resolution image to your email. Please include the following information: the name of your local unit, meeting dates, any special upcoming speakers or events, local unit dues amount, a contact person and how to reach them, and a link to your local unit website and/or Facebook page.



TRTF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please enclose your tax-deductible donation with this card in the envelope provided. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Yes, I want to help! ☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$

☐ Check # _____ Date _____ Amount \$ _____

☐ Please charge my: ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa Expiration _____

Credit Card # _____ — — —

Signature _____

Thank you for your support.

Texas Retired Teachers Foundation | 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 220 | Austin, TX 78701