

News Updates from the President, Membership & Public Relations Chairmen

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Pre-Register for the TRTA Convention!

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TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

OUTLOOK

Scholarships and grant applications, plus TRTA Annual Convention plans!

11-12



The VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

TRTA READIES FOR A GREAT CONVENTION

Plans are underway for what may very well be the best attended TRTA Convention in recent years! Nearly 1,000 people attended TRTA conventions during the past 5 years, and this one is going to be an excellent event for all who are able to come.

One of the biggest draws to this year's annual convention is the city of San Antonio and Fiesta (www.fiesta-sa.org)! TRTA has been able to secure meeting space in one of the newest, most modern hotels on the River Walk, the Grand Hyatt hotel. You will be amazed at the accommodations, meeting rooms, amenities, food, and location! This is a true convention property where TRTA can host all meetings, guests, vendors, and activities. The Grand Hyatt also offers great access to the River Walk and Fiesta activities. Hotel rooms are selling quickly! Please make your reservations early so we can accommodate all who want to attend.

Enjoying San Antonio is a great bonus, but TRTA will make attending the convention a very memorable experience. TRTA leaders are working diligently on training materials and presentations that will help make your membership experience and volunteer activities more rewarding and productive. In addition, we have scheduled excellent guest presenters and are offering many new activities this year. Items such as web site training and new database management tools will be more "hands on." As always, we will bring in a variety of vendors for your shopping enjoyment!

Your TRTA state elected officers are shaking up the schedule by opening the convention with the Officers' Reception. This is a free event for all who want to meet TRTA organizational leaders. The Officers' Reception traditionally was held on the final night of the convention, but having it on the first night will allow more people to come and enjoy this

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

GRAND HYATT

600 East Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double \$129
Triple \$154 and Quad \$179
Room block is open until
March 15, 2011.
888.421.1442



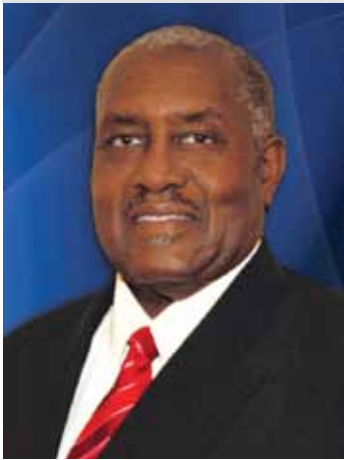
TRTA

ADVOCACY GUIDE 2011

TRTA GUIDE TO THE 82ND LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Share this informative section with your Legislators during the upcoming session, page 5-8.

PRESIDENT'S LINE



2010-2011
TRTA PRESIDENT
Herbert Norris

➤ Comments/questions? Contact Herbert Norris
903.566.2309 | herbertnorris@sbcglobal.net

Now that the mid-term elections are over, we as TRTA members know what Legislators to visit. Our purpose for the next two months must be mobilization, visitation, and education.

First, we must stress the legislative priorities presented by the TRTA State Legislative Committee to our Legislators and the public. They need to know that we have not had an annuity increase in almost 10 years!

Second, we must start visiting our new Legislators now! We need to express our plight, share our concerns, and seek their support on issues that affect retired public school personnel.

Third, we must educate Legislators and active employees on the difference between “defined benefit” and “defined contribution” plans. It is imperative that Legislators know (colloquially speaking) that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” and that “all that glitters is not gold.” Change in the defined benefit pension system may sound advantageous, but it is **not** best for public education retirees. We have an excellent system and changes are **not** necessary.

Most importantly, we must address the following items: 1) TRS-Care Funding (requesting that the state provide funding necessary to allow premiums to remain the same), and 2) State Contribution to TRS (requesting that the state provide the funds required to make the system actuarially sound).

The leadership of the Texas Retired Teachers Association and its committees are appreciative of your membership in the association and ask that each of you become ambassadors for TRTA by urging your friends to become members TODAY!

Remember, THERE IS UNITY IN STRENGTH AND STRENGTH IN NUMBERS. So let’s ALL DO OUR PART TODAY!

TRTA READIES FOR A GREAT CONVENTION, CONTINUED FROM COVER

fun, musical occasion. There will be a roaming mariachi band to entertain you while you enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres. Please RSVP on the pre-registration form (page 4) for this free event as well as other ticketed lunches, breakfasts, and the banquet.

The TRTA Banquet is an event you will not want to miss! Not only will TRTA announce the winner of its prestigious E.L. Galyean Service Award, but the crowd will be entertained by LaDonna Gatlin. TRTA invited LaDonna to perform in 2007 when the convention was in Austin, and our members have been raving about her ever since. The banquet is the premiere event at the convention and you will enjoy good food, a great time with friends, and a wonderful performance.

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) will host a luncheon on April 13 to update guests on its newest outreach activities. We look forward to bringing you information about the lives we have touched thanks to the generosity of TRTA members. TRTF is also proud to welcome Ms. Megan Hookey, Director of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), as their guest speaker during the luncheon. Details are on page 12.

TRTA is offering its first ever Legislative Luncheon. Mr. Bill Barnes, TRTA State Legislative Coordinator, and Tim Lee, TRTA Executive Director, will deliver an up-to-the-minute update about legislative issues. In addition, we hope to have a few surprise guest presenters.

We hope you are making your plans now to attend the 2011 TRTA 58th Annual Convention “Reaching New Heights!” TRTA members are sure to have a very educational and fun experience. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact TRTA or send an email to convention@trta.org.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

9 a.m. – Noon	TRTA Board of Directors Meeting
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
Noon – 6 p.m.	Exhibits
1 – 2 p.m.	Legislative, Leadership Training Meeting
2 – 3:30 p.m.	District Presidents Meeting
3:30 – 5 p.m.	TRTF Board of Trustees Meeting
6 – 8 p.m.	Officers’ Welcoming Reception

Wednesday, April 13, 2011

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Ticketed Breakfast
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibits
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	District Caucus Meetings
12 – 1:30 p.m.	TRTF Luncheon
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions I
3 – 4 p.m.	Breakout Session II
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Breakout Session III
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Banquet

Thursday, April 14, 2011

6:30 – 8 a.m.	Ticketed Breakfast
8 – 9 a.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
8 a.m. – Noon	Exhibits
9 – 11:45 a.m.	First House of Delegates
12 – 1:30 p.m.	Legislative Luncheon
1:45 p.m. – TBD	Second House of Delegates
TBD	Officers’ Visitation/Farewell



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2010-2011

TRTA FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT/
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Maridell Fryar

The TRTA membership initiative prize drawing results are published (see winners to the right) in this issue of *The VOICE*. I want to congratulate the winners and express my appreciation to the local unit first vice-presidents and treasurers who worked so hard to recruit members and to get the records into the state office so that everyone could be included in the drawings.

We still have some months left to continue our search for new members and the renewal of previous members. I know and appreciate how hard you are all working to be "Super Salesmen" for TRTA and to have a record number of members to report to the Legislators as we work with them on our legislative priorities.

Remember as you visit with prospective members that TRTA has VALUE! Sell our organization's work, its advocacy for retired educators, and the benefits available to its members. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at Fiesta in San Antonio during the TRTA Annual Convention and to hearing of a record membership year because of your efforts.

Membership Winners

The following lucky TRTA members' names were randomly drawn for the prizes listed below. Congratulations and we appreciate your support of the association through your membership.

iPad winner: Irma Garza (Benavides, District 2)

Nook winner: Joyce Loden (Houston, District 4)

GETO vacation winner: Evelyn Heard (Hideaway, District 7)

La Quinta two night stay winner: Ruby Smith (Austin, District 13)



PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE

2010-2011

TRTA SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT/PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN

Mary Jane Hamilton

We are looking forward to a new TRTA year! We have many opportunities for "Public Relations" during the months ahead: meeting with your Legislators, conducting retirement education seminars, distributing books for our Children's Book Project, volunteering, and many more, **ALL IMPORTANT!** Use every possibility to publicize your projects and activities.

Local units, please order your book plates and work toward a significant increase in your book distribution. Invite your local newspaper, superintendent, school board members, mayor, and/or PTA officers to your presentation and make it a fun, newsworthy event!

Local unit second vice-presidents, please mail your Children's Book Project reports to your respective district officer by February 1. District second vice-presidents, please mail your district annual reports to the TRTA office by February 15. Begin planning to attend the TRTA Annual Convention on April 12-14, 2011 in San Antonio. Local units, please send any unique ideas for programs, public relations efforts, newsletters, web pages, special recognition activities, etc. to your district second vice-president. Your State Public Relations Committee will use these ideas in planning our session at convention.

Inform your members of the scholarship opportunities and your school districts of the teacher grant opportunities provided by our Texas Retired Teachers Foundation. This is wonderful publicity for TRTA.

Let others know how proud you are to be a member of TRTA!

Convention Delegate Information for Districts and Local Units

Names of all convention delegates are due in the TRTA office by March 1, 2011. Information and forms will be mailed to district and local unit presidents in December. Delegates to the TRTA House of Delegates are:

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.

CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 28, 2011

- ☉ Mail completed form with payment to: TRTA
Attn: Accounting
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78701
- ☉ Banquet, Breakfast, and Lunch tickets sold only in advance.
- ☉ Requests for refunds **MUST** be received in the TRTA office by March 28, 2011. No on-site refunds will be issued.

Personal Information

NAME (LAST/FIRST)		MEMBER ID	
ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
PHONE	EMAIL		

Officers' Welcome Reception (TUESDAY • 04.12.2011 • 6 – 8 p.m.) **RSVP–CHECK BOX IF ATTENDING THE COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION** ☐

Pre-Registration Fee

PRE-REGISTRATION \$20.00 PER PERSON	PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 28, 2011 ON-SITE REGISTRATION PER PERSON \$25.00	\$ _____
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Banquet Fee

BANQUET (WEDNESDAY • 04.13.2011 • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.) \$40.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____
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Breakfast Fees

GRAND HYATT BREAKFAST (WEDNESDAY • 04.13.2011 • 6:30 – 8 a.m.) \$16.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____
GRAND HYATT BREAKFAST (THURSDAY • 04.14.2011 • 6:30 – 8 a.m.) \$16.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____

Lunch Fees

FOUNDATION LUNCHEON (WEDNESDAY • 04.13.2011 • 12 – 1:30 p.m.) \$30.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____
LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON (THURSDAY • 04.14.2011 • 12 – 1:30 p.m.) \$30.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE TRTA OFFICE BY MARCH 28, 2011.
NO ON-SITE REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED. ALL PRICES INCLUDE SERVICE CHARGES.**

TOTAL REMITTANCE

\$ _____

Payment Information

☐ Check or money order enclosed payable to TRTA ☐ Please charge my credit card

▼ CREDIT CARD NUMBER

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▼ SIGNATURE

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TRTA Members in Action

By Tim Lee

TRTA is THE VOICE for education retirees. TRTA represents over 70,000 members, and that number is growing every year. There is no other state organization that channels 100% of its time into working exclusively on issues impacting education retirees.

TRTA needs strong advocates in the Texas Legislature who will work hard to improve benefits for education retirees. The time for talk and passive help is over. The time for decisive action and real solutions is now.

The issue of keeping TRS strong and providing help to retired school employees is not a partisan issue. It is, though, about doing the right thing, helping the people who dedicated their lives to educating Texas, and who now NEED help from those who hold office. Let's work together, get the word out, and make TRTA issues this session's highest priority.



Comments/questions, contact Tim Lee
800.880.1650 • tim@trta.org • www.trta.org



TRTA State Priorities

1. Pension Increase

The 82nd Legislature should pass a permanent increase in TRS retirement benefits. The benefit increase should be high enough to offset 10 years of inflationary increases.

2. TRS–Care Health Insurance Funding

Reduced funding for the TRS–Care health insurance program may increase retiree premiums this session. TRTA supports fully funding the TRS–Care program to ensure no premium increase through 2014.

3. TRS Funding

The State must increase funding to ensure the fund's solvency and to provide a benefit increase to retirees.

4. Preserve Defined Benefit Plan

TRTA opposes any legislative action that modifies or eliminates the defined benefit plan for educators as it is established in the Texas Constitution.

5. TRS Board of Trustee Elections

Retirees vote for their representative on the TRS Board, but the governor picks the winner among the top three vote getters. Why?!

6. TRS Board of Trustee Composition

The retiree population is growing every year and they are underrepresented on the TRS Board. Now is the time to add another retiree position on the TRS Board.

TRTA FACT SHEET:

We Can Do Better than 10 Years of Neglect

In the last 10 years, Texas is the only state in the country that has not provided some sort of permanent pension increase to its public education retirees. Think about having to live on a fixed income in today's economy when everything costs more, but your income is based on dollar values from 10 years ago. This is the reality that our public education retirees face every day.

Public Education Retirees Need Help!

- Inflationary pressure has had a tremendous impact on TRS retirees' ability to buy goods and services.
- TRS retirees have not had an increase in their retirement benefits since 2001.
- Last session, retirees were denied a \$500 supplemental payment.
- Retiree buying power has been hit hard by the economic downturn. People who have been retired since 2001 have lost no less than 30% of their purchasing power (this adjusted consumer price index number is woefully inadequate as it does not factor in cost increase associated with food or energy).
- Any additional benefit increases, whether a permanent raise or supplemental payment, must be passed by the Texas Legislature.

TRS Pension Fund

- TRS retirees are prohibited from receiving a pension increase when the fund is not actuarially sound. TRS is requesting a contribution rate of 7.2 percent for FY 2012 and 7.3 percent for FY 2013. TRTA supports increasing contributions as much as may be necessary to provide retirees with a pension increase.
- Over the last decade, the Texas Legislature has rarely met its funding requirements as determined by TRS (this is known as the annually required contribution, or ARC);
- Failing to meet the ARC has exacerbated the funding shortfalls at TRS;
- This, along with difficult economic trends, has kept the system from being actuarially sound; and retirees have suffered by not receiving a true cost of living increase.

Legislators Should Consider Ideas Such as These to Help TRS Retirees

- Provide some form of across the board pension increase for TRS retirees.
- Maintain or increase funding to help retirement system recover from financial downturn.
 - Provide a supplemental benefit payment (also known as a 13th check).
 - Reduce TRS-Care premiums for plan participants.
 - Work with Texas Congressional members to repeal the GPO and the WEP.
- Work with Congress to allow retirees to pay health insurance premiums on pre-tax dollars.
- Add another retiree to the TRS board.
- Develop a long-term funding strategy to ensure the actuarial soundness of the pension trust fund.



A True Crisis—Prices Rise, Pensions Flat

You cannot even blow your nose without the tissue costing you 63% more today than it did in 2001. Texas public education retirees are feeling financial crisis because their pension has only one mechanism to keep up with the rate of inflation. That one mechanism is the Texas Legislature providing them with additional income through a cost-of-living raise or some other benefit adjustment. Figure 1.

TRS-Care Costs Explained

TRS-Care is the health insurance program that covers over 200,000 public education retirees and dependents. This chart explains who pays what to maintain the plan. TRS-Care premiums have not changed since 2005, however not adequately funding TRS-Care could mean an immediate increase in retiree health care premiums and impose further financial difficulty on retirees. Adequately funding this vital program, along with the health care fund's surplus, could help control costs for another 5 years. Figure 2.

What Other States Pay

TRS contributions are a relative bargain for the state of Texas and for active employees. Compare TRS Texas contributions with other similar state retirement plans and the value is clear. Contributions to the Federal Social Security plan are higher, but provide lower benefits compared to TRS. This value is underscored by TRS leaders' abilities to invest those funds for maximum return. Did you know that a 1% return on TRS investments is equivalent to a 3% state contribution? This proven earnings capacity has helped keep pension costs low for active employees and Texas. Figure 3.

Figure 2

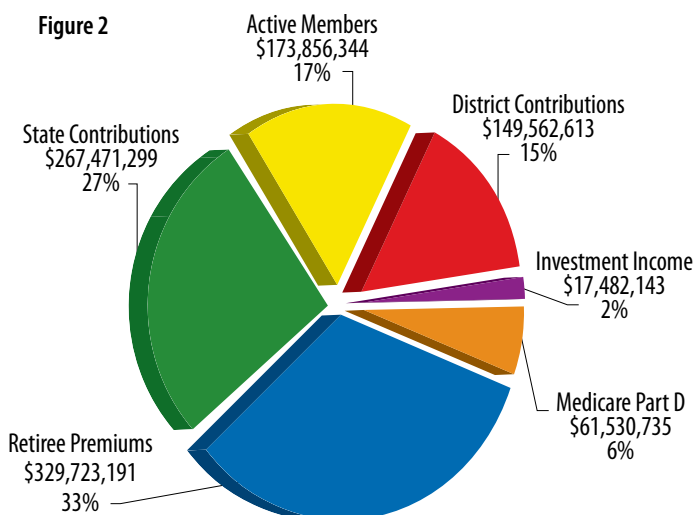


Figure 1

Goods and Services	2001 Price	2010 Price	% Increase
<i>Food</i>			
Ground beef per lb.	\$1.61	\$3.37	109%
Half gallon milk	\$1.73	\$2.38	37%
Dozen eggs	\$1.15	\$1.58	37%
Potatoes 10 lbs.	\$2.49	\$3.07	23%
Loaf of bread	\$.93	\$1.59	71%
Coffee canned	\$2.53	\$4.35	71%
Crisco oil	\$2.90	\$4.77	64%
Frozen orange juice	\$1.56	\$3.46	121%
<i>Household Products</i>			
Kleenex	\$1.29	\$2.11	63%
Cascade dishwashing liquid	\$3.35	\$4.55	35%
Toothpaste, Crest 6-7oz tube	\$2.27	\$2.99	31%
<i>Place of Residence & Up keep</i>			
Energy use for home per month	\$117.92	\$205.00	75%
Phone line per month	\$20.74	\$28.75	39%
Washing machine repair bill	\$41.73	\$70.00	67%
<i>Living Costs</i>			
Hair cut men	\$9.80	\$15.80	61%
Hair cut women	\$23.40	\$40.00	70%
Monthly newspaper	\$12.95	\$21.00	62%
Tires balanced	\$7.79	\$12.00	54%
Gallon of gas	\$1.40	\$2.69	92%
<i>Health Care</i>			
Doctor's visit	\$57.90	\$95.00	64%
Dental visit	\$70.60	\$98.00	38%

Cost of Goods and Services in 2001 and 2010

Figure 3

State	Employee Contribution	Employer Contribution
Alaska	9.65%	44.17%
California	8.00%	10.27%
Colorado	8.00%	15.75%
Illinois	9.40%	12.73%
Kentucky	9.855%	13.105%
Louisiana	8.00%	15.50%
Maine	7.65%	16.72%
Massachusetts	5 to 11%	
Missouri	13.00%	13.00%
Nevada	10.50%	10.50%
Ohio	10.00%	14.00%
Texas	6.40%	6.644%

TRTA's Steps to Legislative Success

- **If you have email, you need the TRTA *Inside Line*.** The fastest and most effective way TRTA communicates with its members is through an email service called the *Inside Line*. This service, available to anyone – TRTA member or not – delivers the most up-to-date legislative information you can get on TRTA issues, and most importantly is free! Log on to the TRTA web site at www.trta.org and click the icon that reads "*Inside Line*." Receiving the *Inside Line* ensures you are getting the information you need about your pension benefits.
- **Know your Legislators and make sure they know you!** Want to know what influences Legislators more than anything else? It's their constituents. Nothing rivals the power to vote someone out of office, and Legislators know they need to perform to keep their jobs. Please call or email your legislator at least one time this session and tell them you are a member of the Texas Retired Teachers Association and their constituent and that you need them to take action for you this session.
- **Send TRTA your story.** As a way to ensure your voice is being heard, please send your personal story, comments, and concerns about issues affecting retirees this session to TRTA. It is our goal to use your words more than ours, after all TRTA is YOUR VOICE in the Texas Legislature. Please send these comments to tim@trta.org or to cindee@trta.org and we will use them in our public testimony during this legislative session!
- **Call, Call, Call!** Many times during a legislative session, TRTA will be aware of a bill going before a committee or a vote taking place on a critical measure. TRTA will send an alert to members through the *Inside Line* and will ask you to call your Legislator. We provide a toll-free number for your use: 888.674.3788. This will automatically connect you to the Texas Capitol switchboard and you can ask to speak directly with someone in your Legislator's office. It's fast, simple, and FREE!
- **Email your Legislators.** Email is another tool you can use through TRTA to get the message delivered to Legislators. During the session, TRTA will send targeted email advocacy campaigns to *Inside Line* subscribers. These email advocacy campaigns generate lots of legislative interest on the issues important to you and to TRTA. Be ready for these alerts all session long as this free email tool is implemented even more.
- **Mark your calendars!** TRTA will be hosting a Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. This is a good time to schedule a visit with your Legislators and join hundreds of other retirees in the halls of the Capitol making our voices heard. Details about the event will be featured in the next issue of *The VOICE*.

TRTA LEGISLATIVE TEAM You may share our contact information with your Legislators and their staff members.



PRIVATE PRACTICE EDUCATORS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Provided by a carrier rated A+ XV Superior by A.M. Best

TRTA is pleased to announce that our Board of Directors has approved a new program designed to protect members from a broad range of exposures associated with private practice. This program complements our successful Educators Professional Liability Program that covers teachers returning to the profession.

TRTA's new insurance program is designed to benefit retired administrators and principals returning to work in the school districts, retired teachers or administrators returning to work other than in the classroom and retired school personnel who are not annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (Associate Members) yet are returning to work.

This policy provides coverage for damages resulting from a negligent act, error or omission arising out of the insured's operations, even when allegations are groundless, false or fraudulent. There is no deductible applied to any of the coverage sections.

What the Policy Pays:

Private Practice Educators Professional Liability* - Up to \$1,000,000 per insured, per occurrence / \$3,000,000 per insured, aggregate

Reimbursement of Attorney Fees for Criminal Action or Proceeding – Up to \$50,000 per claim, per insured

Reimbursement of Attorney Fees - Identity Theft – Up to \$2,500 per claim, per insured / \$5,000 per insured, aggregate

Bail Bonds - \$1,000 per bail bond, per insured

Assault Related Personal Property Damage – Up to \$2,500 per claim, per insured / \$5,000 per insured, aggregate

*Defense costs are provided in addition to the applicable limit of liability.

The plan also allows you to add a facility which has an insurable interest in claims arising out of your negligence to your certificate. The "additional insured" then becomes entitled to indemnity and defense under your policy (if policy limits have not been exhausted), with no responsibility for premium payments.

You must be a member of TRTA to purchase the insurance. Visit our web site at www.trta.org to enroll online with a credit or debit card. Total cost is \$265 [\$199 annual premium and \$66 Agency Administrative Fee]. Questions can be directed to The John A. Barclay Agency, Inc. 512-476-6566.

This brief description of the policy is to provide information only to members and in no way alters or modifies the policy on file with the Association. Coverage is subject to terms, conditions and exclusions of the policy. See details in the summary posted on the web site. Premiums and fees are 100% fully earned and non-refundable once coverage begins.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

PS Form 3526

1. Publication Title VOICE (THE) (NIC)	2. Publication Number 658950	3. Filing Date 10/12/2010
4. Issue Frequency Q	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 4	6. Annual Subscription Price \$2.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication 313 E 12TH ST STE 200 AUSTIN, TRAVIS, TX 78701-1957		Contact Person LAURA RIOS OR BOBBIE PEARSON Telephone (512) 476-1622
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher 313 E 12TH ST STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78701-1957		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor		
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIA 313 E 12TH ST STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78701-1957		
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) LAURA RIOS 313 E 12TH ST STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78701-1957		
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) TIM LEE 313 E 12TH ST STE 200 AUSTIN, TX 78701-1957		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIA	313 E 12TH ST STE 200, AUSTIN, TX 78701-1957	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1)

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13. Publication Title VOICE (THE) (NIC)		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 08/31/2010	
15. Extend and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Numbers of Copies (Net press run)		72025	73000
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	71603	72573
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), (4))		71603	72573
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside County Copies included on PS Form 3541	39	36
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), (4))		39	36
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		71642	72609
g. Copies not Distributed		384	391
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)		72026	73000
i. Percent Paid ((15c / 15f) times 100)		99.95 %	99.95 %
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the DEC. 2010 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner devon@trta.org (DEVON BECK)		Date 10/12/2010	

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OUTLOOK



LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT APPLICATIONS

Ready for distribution

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TRTF SAYS "THANK YOU"

How you've made a difference

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TRTF'S 2011 CONVENTION PLANS

Luncheon, booths, and more!

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TRTF SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE READY!

The 2011 TRTF Student Scholarship and Classroom Assistance Grant applications are now available. 10 \$500 student scholarships and 10 \$500 classroom assistance grants will be awarded for the coming school year.

Student Scholarships are open to education majors attending a college or university in Texas for the 2011–2012 school year. Applicants must also be related to a member of TRTA. Classroom Assistance Grants are open to all Texas public school teachers. An applicant must write a description of a classroom project or program that enhances the learning environment for his or her students.

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, March 17, 2011. Recipients will be announced at the 2011 TRTA Annual Convention in San Antonio during the Foundation Luncheon, but do not need to be present.

Electronic versions of the applications are available by email (info@trtf.org) or through our website at www.trtf.org/index.cfm/scholarships-grants. If you require a hard copy, please call Cindee Sharp at 800.880.1650.

TRTF has raised \$49,000 since November 1st! Can you help us get to \$70,000 by the end of the year? When 1050 people donate \$20 to TRTF, we will reach that goal!

If you prefer to make your donation online using a credit card, please visit www.justgive.org and do a search for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation.

Thank You For Your Support

As we near the end of the year, many of us pause to be thankful. The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) thanks each one of you for your role in promoting our vision.

Because of you, TRTF was able to launch its newest charitable program "A Helping Hand" statewide in October. Thanks to the hundreds of you who participated in training via webinar and by hosting onsite trainings in your area. With your help, TRTF will be able to reach out to retirees in need and be successful in the business of helping others.

Because of you, TRTF has raised \$49,000 since November! Numerous donations were made by local units, districts, and individuals who designated their gifts for student scholarships, classroom assistance grants, or "A Helping Hand."

Thousands of you responded to the letter the Foundation mailed in November, telling you the story of one of our grant recipients, Ms. Helen Jo Crump. There is still time to respond and make your year-end tax-deductible donation. Please contact Cindee Sharp at 800.880.1650 ext 106 to learn more.

Thank you for making 2010 a successful year! Your generosity and time is appreciated.



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

2011 TRTA CONVENTION PLANS FOR TRTF

As you make your plans to attend the TRTA 58th Annual Convention in April, please consider attending our annual Foundation Luncheon. We would love to have you as our guest on April 13, 2011. The menu is printed below. Tickets are \$30, and may be purchased when you submit your convention pre-registration form (see page 4).

It is common for individuals, districts, and local units to present gifts to the Foundation at the end of the luncheon, resulting in a rousing display of generosity. This year, TRTF will ensure that your donation is publicly recognized. If you will be attending the luncheon and making a donation, you may complete a form to include a personal message. Many attendees take this opportunity to honor a current member of TRTA or to memorialize a retiree or family member who was dear to them. Forms will be available at your luncheon table, or in advance through our e-newsletter *The Ledger*. Bring your form and your donation forward to the podium on April 13, and your message will be announced.

For the second year in a row, TRTF will host a photo booth in the exhibition hall. This year's props will include Fiesta-themed attire and accessories. Photos are available for a suggested donation of \$15 for a 5x7, which will be mailed after the convention. All donations will benefit "A Helping Hand." Last year's photo booth made for memorable souvenirs for numerous attendees. Couples, friends, and groups from local units or districts posed together for a fun photo and a good cause!

This year the Foundation will be hosting a training session during the convention. Details will be available in the next issue of *The VOICE*.

TRTF Luncheon Wednesday, April 13, 2011 12 – 1:30 p.m.

- Mixed greens with cucumber, tomatoes, and carrots
- Rosemary grilled chicken breast with mushroom ragout
- Fingerling potatoes • Grilled vegetables • Chocolate layer cake with fruit coulis



TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

OUTLOOK

LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

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