



## REJECTED: ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS "NO"

Attorney General Greg Abbott did not authorize the much-anticipated \$500 supplemental payment for public education retirees. Abbott's statement: "...the Legislature is aware of legal means by which to provide additional benefits to retirees. It conspicuously failed to utilize such approaches during the eighty-first legislative session...." TRTA has released a response, which can be found at [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org). TRTA members will receive additional information and specific guidelines on our next steps through an all-member mailing. TRTA members, please watch your mailboxes for this important information.



# *The* VOICE

THE OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN OF THE TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

**TRTA BUILDS A TABLE FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON GPO/WEP**

*By Tim Lee, Executive Director*

Many of you may recall the popular movie about a farmer who built a baseball field on his land. The motivation behind the man's ambition was a voice that kept telling him, "If you build it, they will come." Similarly, the TRTA Board of Directors is moving forward with an approach to "build" a table in Washington and add pressure to Congress on the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

### What's at Stake?

Many of you know the effects of the GPO, the WEP or both on a very personal level. These unjust Social Security provisions reduce and, in some cases, eliminate benefits for public education retirees, as well as many other public employee retirees. TRTA has chronicled the history of these two provisions and their impact in previous issues, but as a refresher for those who have never heard of the GPO and the WEP, visit [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org) for more information.

The bottom line is that public pensioners all over the country are being penalized for their service. The impact is felt by educators, municipal workers, state employees, federal employees and even the United States military.



With hundreds of thousands of Americans hurting from the financial impact of the GPO and the WEP, why has Congress failed to act? In an era of bailing out the big banks and financial institutions, why has Congress turned its back on public employees who have spent their lives in service to our schools, fire stations, communities, and even on the battlefield? The only plausible answer is that Congress believes they can continue taking money from retirees with little to no action on the issue. Hundreds of Congressional members find solace in cosponsoring legislation that calls for the repeal of these provisions, while never taking any

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

definitive step toward that end. All the while, retired public employees are heavily recruited to support the same Congressional members when it comes time to go to the ballot box. These same retirees are being ignored, misled, and cast aside for issues Congress believes are more important.

Can such a claim really be made about Congressional officials who profess their desire to see these issues reversed? The proof is in their actions. The GPO and the WEP are simply punted from one Congressional session to the next with little more than a symbolic cosponsor list and an occasional committee hearing. The issue has been raised with Congress consistently for more than 20 years, and although awareness of GPO/WEP is as high as it has ever been, Congress still fails to make it a realistic priority.

Repealing the GPO and WEP Requires a New Approach

Have you ever tried to make an appointment with a Congressional office? The sad reality is that Congressional members run at a frenetic pace. Traveling between Washington and their districts, going to innumerable meetings, visiting with as many constituents as they can – these are but a few of the scheduling obstacles that tend to get in the way. TRTA is rethinking the entire outreach effort on the issue and organizing the first-ever GPO/WEP Summit. This initiative began nearly two years ago when TRTA and the Retired Educators Association (REA) network met to discuss our collective progress and design a new approach.

The REA network is an organization of retired public education associations

around the country. TRTA functions in partnership with these organizations on a national level through the National Retired Teachers Association as well as other nationally affiliated groups. With nearly every state in the country having a retired educator association, the REA network adds to our collective strength in Washington on issues such as this one.

TRTA and many other REAs decided Congress was simply doing the minimum to placate our constituency. Unfortunately, Congressional members across the political spectrum have simply been taking advantage of the retirees impacted by the GPO/WEP by signing a bill professing their support, but taking little real action to advance the issue. In spite of this inaction, though, we have made considerable progress educating other retirees and making active employees aware of the GPO/WEP.

A Blueprint for Success

In the many years TRTA and other REA groups have been working to repeal the GPO/WEP, few instances can be cited in which Congressional activity has actually brought decision makers to the table to advance the GPO/WEP repeal effort. Every now and then, a hearing or press conference is held, but they are few and far between and have had minimal effect.

Therefore, TRTA is reaching out through the upcoming GPO/WEP summit and asking Congressional members to explain in person to our network just what actions they are taking and what activities we can undertake to repeal these harmful provisions.

Right now, TRTA is scheduling Congressional members to meet with

REA network leadership on the real and tangible aspects of a repeal. Summit participants want to know what exactly is being planned for Social Security reform, how the repeal of the GPO/WEP fits into those plans, when we can expect real action, and what our members can expect from all involved.

We also plan on having representatives from the Social Security Administration, various Congressional staffers, and our allies from other state and national constituent groups at the summit to work with us. The summit’s success, though, relies primarily on the participation of the Congressional members we’re counting on to move this issue forward. We need to hear from them what they are doing to push this issue forward. We need to know what the resistance is, what the current financial estimates for repeal are, who is working with us, and what our members can expect Congress to do now.

TRTA may need your help. As we continue to make contact with Congressional members, we know their calendars are not set until just a few weeks or even days before any given meeting. The more constituent pressure TRTA members can generate on their representatives’ participation, the more likely it is that each Congressional member will schedule time with us.

Keep in mind that this approach has never been tried before, and we are doing something very different than a simple Congressional office visit. TRTA has secured a meeting room inside the United States Capitol to make it as convenient as possible for key members of Congress to join us. While we are not inviting the entire Texas delegation, we need to meet with several critical members. TRTA members can follow the summit’s

TRTA Bill Tracker

HR235/S 484	Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)	Amends title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.
HR 2145	Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)	Eliminates the effects of the Windfall Elimination Provision for persons earning less than \$2,500 a month in a combined government pension and Social Security earnings. The WEP formula would be reapplied to Social Security earnings above the combined \$2,500 limit.
HR 1221/S 490	Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)	Amends title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants.

progress and invitation list by signing up to receive the free e-newsletter called the *Inside Line*. Simply go to [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org) and click the link to receive the *Inside Line*. TRTA members who do not have email can call 800.880.1650 and ask for an update on the GPO/WEP summit.

## Who Else Is Helping with This National Effort?

Many organizations are working to repeal the GPO/WEP. Nearly all of the active teacher associations, administrator groups, and other organizations representing active education employees want to abolish these provisions. Many other public employee organizations, including state and federal employees, are working to rid the system of them as well.

Some states are developing grassroots organizations on their own to repeal the GPO/WEP. For example, a group of active educators in California are working with the California Retired Teachers Association and many other groups to host statewide rallies and awareness campaigns. The group's web site, [www.ssfairness.com](http://www.ssfairness.com), offers many additional resources for your review.

TRTA is working to add even more groups to these efforts. Only when Congress feels pressured enough on this issue will they choose to act. It will take all of us working together to make an impact.

## The Bottom Line

With these efforts in full swing, TRTA expects Congress to be much more responsive to our members when it comes to the GPO/WEP. Much has been done to help push Congress into action. Thousands of letters and countless emails have been sent, more Congressional

visits than I can remember have been made, and this is but a scratching of the surface. The last reported price tag on repealing the GPO/WEP was purported to be over \$85 billion in a ten-year period. Think about the billions Congress has spent in the last year just to bail out banks and save Wall Street power brokers. All the while, hundreds of thousands of public servants across the country have waited to know if their Social Security benefits may ever be restored. Helping retirees receive their full Social Security benefits should stimulate the economy and assist state and local governments through sales taxes generated on the consumption of goods and services.

TRTA is no longer doing "business as usual." Congress has had it the same way for far too long. Retirees know the drill and we are dismayed to think that Congressional members would not expect us see what they have been doing (or, more to the point, *not* doing). The reintroduction of the same bills year after year with hundreds of cosponsors but little to no action is one play out of the playbook that we are no longer running. The success of the GPO/WEP summit will be known when we are able to say to you, "We built the table, Congress came to us, and now we have a plan."

The TRTA Board of Directors is fully vested in this summit. The elected TRTA officers, the State Legislative Coordinator and I will all be participating in this event. A complete report on the summit and its results will be printed in the next issue of *The VOICE*. We will also provide email updates through our *Inside Line*. Thank you for your support and for being a part of TRTA. With your help, we can achieve our goals! ★

## HR 235 TEXAS COSPONSORS

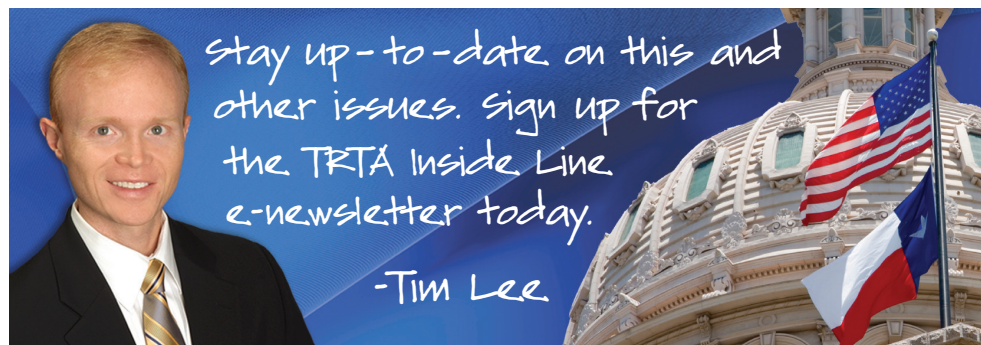
Please thank them for their support

Rep. Michael Burgess (229 Cannon, 202.225.7772)
Rep. John Carter (409 Cannon, 202.225.3864)
Rep. Michael Conaway (1527 Longworth, 202.225.3605)
Rep. Henry Cuellar (336 Cannon, 202.225.1640)
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (201 Cannon, 202.225.4865)
Rep. Chet Edwards (2369 Rayburn, 202.225.6105)
Rep. Louie Gohmert (511 Cannon, 202.225.3035)
Rep. Charles A. Gonzalez (303 Cannon, 202.225.3236)
Rep. Al Green (236 Cannon, 202.225.7508)
Rep. Gene Green (2372 Rayburn, 202.225.1688)
Rep. Ralph M. Hall (2405 Rayburn, 202.225.6673)
Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (2463 Rayburn, 202.225.2531)
Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (2160 Rayburn, 202.225.3816)
Rep. Eddie B. Johnson (1511 Longworth, 202.225.8885)
Rep. Michael T. McCaul (131 Cannon, 202.225.2401)
Rep. Randy Neugebauer (1424 Longworth, 202.225.4005)
Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz (2110 Rayburn, 202.225.7742)
Rep. Ron Paul (203 Cannon, 202.225.2831)
Rep. Ted Poe (430 Cannon, 202.225.6565)
Rep. Silvestre Reyes (2433 Rayburn, 202.225.4831)
Rep. Ciro D. Rodriguez (2351 Rayburn, 202.225.4511)

## NOT SIGNED AS OF 11.11.09

Please call and ask for their support

Rep. Joe Barton (2109 Rayburn, 202.225.2002)
Rep. Kevin Brady (301 Cannon, 202.225.4901)
Rep. John Culberson (1514 Longworth, 202.225.2571)
Rep. Kay Granger (320 Cannon, 202.225.5071)
Rep. Jeb Hensarling (129 Cannon, 202.225.3484)
Rep. Sam Johnson (1211 Longworth, 202.225.4201)
Rep. Kenny Marchant (227 Cannon, 202.225.6605)
Rep. Pete Olson (514 Cannon, 202.225.5951)
Rep. Pete Sessions (2233 Rayburn, 202.225.2231)
Rep. Lamar Smith (2409 Rayburn, 202.225.4236)
Rep. William Thornberry (2209 Rayburn, 202.225.3706)
Senator John Cornyn (517 Hart, 202.224.2934)
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (284 Russell, 202.224.5922)





# PRESIDENT'S LINE



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

I certainly hope your holidays are full of joy after this difficult year, and I wish I could add to that joy with positive news from the Attorney General regarding the supplemental payment. As many of you know, the decision reached last month dismays all of us.

The money now being deposited into the fund is barely a drop in the bucket in terms of the overall picture, but it would have meant the world to those receiving it in the form of a supplemental payment that could have gone toward groceries, medicine or utility bills this winter. We are now more emboldened than ever to fight tooth and nail for what has been promised to us. Especially now, we will not back down.

Still, retirees have much to celebrate despite this year's tough economy. We are fortunate to have a defined benefit plan which guarantees our monthly annuities. The TRS fund is beginning to regain its strength. Those of us with TRS Care II and III have had no premium increase, enabling us to continue purchasing the prescriptions we need. For these good fortunes, if few others, we are thankful.

Last year's volunteer service reports showed that we distributed 81,000 books to deserving children through the Children's Book Project and took more than 27 billion steps as part of the Walks-a-Million program, doing our part to adopt healthy habits and reduce health care costs. We gave more than \$101 million dollars' worth of volunteer hours, saving Texas a substantial amount of money in the face of economic adversity. This year's deadline for reporting our local service hours is December 31. Let's do all we can to surpass last year's benchmarks!

We had a fantastic convention this past spring and are looking ahead to the 2010 event. Please be sure to read our special convention section on pages 6-8.

Thank you for your state association membership. If you are not already a member of a local TRTA unit as well, I encourage you to become one. Our local units are the backbone of our association. We are nearing our goal of reaching the 100,000-member mark; please invite your fellow retirees to join TRTA!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments and I will respond as quickly as I can. May you and your loved ones have a wonderful holiday season and a great New Year!



Comments/questions, contact Dora Scott-Nichols  
713.465.8912 • dorashn@comcast.net

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



2009–2010  
TRTA FIRST VP/MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  
**Herbert Norris**

All of the Fall District Conventions have been completed, and now the next phase of our work begins. I hope we have all been rejuvenated and remain steadfast in our recruitment efforts for the remainder of the year.

As we approach the next legislative session, we need to be mindful that now is the time for us to communicate with our legislators, especially our Senators, who were less supportive of us this past session than their counterparts in the House. I cannot stress enough how important it is that we build and maintain relationships with these elected officials and make them understand our issues.

The Membership Committee has an enormous amount of work on the horizon. Tasks to be completed include:

1. Development of a new Informational Poster to share with School Districts and Businesses regarding

TRTA Activities and Projects

2. Development of a "Best Practices" brochure for local units' use
3. Establishment of guidelines for individual recruitment incentive awards to be presented per district at the 2011 TRTA Convention
4. Continuation of the \$7 rebate for net gain in membership at the local level
5. Execution of a collaborative meeting of the Membership Committee, Public Relations Committee, Retirement Education Committee, OAC Chair and Secretary/Treasurer to be held on December 2, 2009 in Austin

The Membership Research Committee met on 10/14/09 at the Drury Inn. The Committee Members are: Co-Chairmen Herbert Norris and Nola Boughton, members Norma Irwin, Paul Payne, Don Vardeman, Dorothy Wasunyk, President Dora Scott-Nichols, Executive Director Tim Lee, and Deputy Director Bobbie Pearson. Items to be studied include recruitment of all categories of members (such as support staff), dues and dues categories.

Remember, if we "Each One Bring One" our goal can be reached. I hope you all enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday season!

## PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE



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

Fall Conventions are over, local units are in full swing and TRTA across the state is alive and well, thanks to all of you. I want to remind you of some important activities and deadlines to ensure that the good work you are all doing is going to be noticed and appreciated: you still have time to order TRTA book labels for your Children's Book Projects (CPB).

District Second Vice-Presidents—contact your locals and encourage 100 percent participation for your district.

Local units—work toward a significant increase in your books this year.

Local units—remember to make a newsworthy event out of presenting your books.

Local units—get your CBP reports to the District Second Vice-Presidents by February 1.

District Second Vice-Presidents—get your district reports to the state office by February 15.

Let's work together to make 2009 a banner year for the TRTA Children's Book Project. Remember, some of the books your unit gives may be the very first books many children will have to call their own. Don't let a child in your community miss the opportunity to fall in love with reading.

## Convention Delegate Information for Districts and Local Units

Names of all convention delegates are due in the TRTA office by March 1, 2010. 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.



# TRTA PRESENTS "THE WINNING GAME PLAN" IN ARLINGTON

ANNUAL CONVENTION KICKS OFF APRIL 13-15, 2010

The TRTA 57th Annual Convention is all set for Arlington! We hope you've made plans to take part in this wonderful occasion. The Arlington Convention Center will be our home for the week's events, with accommodations provided at the Sheraton Arlington, offering free shuttle service to and from the DFW airport. Overflow rooms will be provided at the Hilton Arlington, also with a free shuttle service. As the Sheraton is within a short walking distance from the convention center, TRTA is providing a private trolley with complimentary service between the Hilton and the convention center to help all attendees enjoy a seamless week.

Convention offers the perfect setting to enjoy fellowship with peers from all over our great state and use that time together to discuss retiree issues, learn from seasoned presenters, and attend the much-anticipated annual banquet and President's Reception. All of this, in addition to top-notch leadership training sessions, exhibits, and the foundation of our convention events—TRTA's annual business meeting—will culminate to provide a memorable experience for all.

Building on the overwhelming success of the 2009 convention in Dallas, TRTA presents this year's theme, "The Winning Game Plan," and promises a series of events that are informative, insightful, and thoughtfully planned to the finest detail. We couldn't ask for a better city to host such an event. Arlington is home to the mighty Texas Rangers and proudly boasts the brand-new, state-of-the-art Cowboys Stadium, not to mention a rodeo, a motor cross speedway and a horse racing venue. What better place is there to foster a healthy sense of sportsmanship?

Through this year's convention, TRTA

members will be given an opportunity to harness that competitive spirit and carry it forward into the months and years ahead, putting it to good use as we fight to make our voices heard and get our concerns resolved.

District XI invites you to participate in the optional Rangers Ballpark tour to be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 (see sidebar). Arlington has many wonderful places to visit, shop, dine, and explore. Local insight on things to see and do will be available through the convention hotels' staff and our fantastic team of convention volunteers from District XI, our host for the week.

If you are planning to attend, please send in your pre-registration form (don't forget to check which ticketed meals you wish to attend), reserve your room and book your transportation now. This year our President's Reception will feature a complimentary light buffet, therefore please RSVP on the pre-registration form to help us plan this event (page 8). Also, be sure to note that the banquet will take place on Thursday night, April 15. In addition to a fun-filled evening of entertainment, fine dining and fellowship, TRTA will be giving away fantastic door prizes, and winners must be present in order to claim them. Make a note to stop by the exhibit hall to have your picture taken in our special "red carpet" photo area to commemorate your experience in Arlington. Photos are \$15, with proceeds benefiting the Foundation's "A Helping Hand" program, which assists retired Texas public educators in need.

Both hotels are booking up quickly! Be sure to plan your arrival for Tuesday, April 13 and check out the morning of Friday, April 16. Have a safe and happy holiday season! We look forward to seeing you in Arlington in 2010! ❖



## RANGERS BALLPARK TOUR

Please join us on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, for a tour of the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington and take a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most beautiful ballparks around. The one-hour tour includes a visit to the press box, a luxury suite, the media room, the Rangers' personal batting cages, the dugout, the Nolan Ryan room, and the clubhouse.

A trolley will pick up tour members and whisk them to the ballpark's Home Run Porch, where they will enjoy a delicious boxed lunch at noon. This lunch spot is located in the right outfield and has a beautiful view of the stadium and field. Then, at 1:00 p.m., our guided tour will begin. This very special offer gives us a chance to relax and enjoy the excitement of a new baseball season in a way few people ever get to enjoy! The tour can be prepaid through the pre-registration form (page 8). The \$25 rate (which covers the trolley, lunch and tour) is only valid if 25 or more people sign up, so reserve your spot as soon as possible to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity!

**April 13, 2010 | 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
**\$25 per person**

## CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### Tuesday, April 13, 2010

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
Noon – 6 p.m.	Exhibits
10:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Leadership Meetings

### Wednesday, April 14, 2010

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Exhibits
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	District Caucus Meetings
12 – 1 p.m.	TRTF Luncheon
1:15 – 4:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions
6:30 – 8 p.m.	President's Reception

### Thursday, April 15, 2010

8 a.m. – Noon	Exhibits
8 – 9 a.m.	Delegate Certification/Registration
9 – 11:45 a.m.	1st House of Delegates
12 – 1 p.m.	Stilwell Retirement Luncheon
1:15 p.m. – TBD	2nd House of Delegates
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Banquet

# Coach Gene Stallings

## Keynote Speaker

At the conclusion of the 1996 season, Coach Gene Stallings announced his retirement from the University of Alabama. One of legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant's favorite coaching sons, Stallings was named Alabama's 22nd head football coach Jan. 11, 1990. He had first worked at Alabama as an assistant coach in 1958 and returned after working in the NFL for many years [including as St. Louis Cardinals head coach]. In seven years, Stallings directed the Crimson Tide to one National Championship [1992], one SEC Championship, four SEC Western Division titles and six post-season bowl appearances. His on-the-field coaching record stands as 70-16-1 [.810], a winning percentage fourth in Alabama history. A graduate of Texas A&M, Stallings spent a total of 14 years as a college head coach with an overall collegiate record of 97-61-2. Twenty of his former players have gone on to play in the National Football League. His book, *Another Season*, describes the love he has for his son who was born with Downs Syndrome. Stallings has received several humanitarian awards and was selected as 1992 National Coach of the Year. He speaks on family relations and leadership topics.



## HOTEL INFORMATION

Reserve your rooms online or by phone. Be sure to mention the "TRTA Annual Convention" for special rates.

### Sheraton Arlington

1500 Convention Center Dr. • Arlington, TX 76011  
Single & Double \$129 • Triple \$139 • Quad \$149  
Room block is open until March 15, 2010.  
800.442.7275

### Hilton Arlington

2401 East Lamar Boulevard • Arlington, TX 76006  
King 1-2 people \$125 • Double 2-4 people \$135  
Room block is open until March 25, 2010.  
800.445.8667

## Get on board!

The Trolley: Arlington's Entertainment Connection



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## What is on the menu?



**Meal locations: Arlington Convention Center ballroom area**

### Convention Lunch (\$17 per person)

**Wednesday 04.14.10, 12 – 1 p.m.**

House salad with beef & cheese enchiladas, rice, refried beans, raspberry cream cake

### Convention Lunch (\$17 per person)

**Thursday 04.15.10, 12 – 1 p.m.**

Caesar salad with beef lasagna, cheese tortellini primavera, garlic bread sticks, tiramisu mousse torte

### TRTF Luncheon (\$28 per person)

**Wednesday 04.14.10, 12 – 1 p.m.**

Romaine lettuce with tomatoes and parmesan cheese, chicken breast filled with onion, garlic, tomatoes, green olives, mozzarella, topped with a herb sauce, orzo pilaf, grilled squash, cherry cheesecake

### Stilwell Luncheon (\$27 per person)

**Thursday 04.15.10, 12 – 1 p.m.**

Tossed salad with grilled salmon and orange ginger vinaigrette, roasted chicken breast and roasted tomato pesto, saffron rice, green beans, buttery rolls, chocolate mousse torte

### Banquet (\$38 per person)

**Thursday 04.15.10, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Texas field greens with mozzarella and tomatoes, grilled chicken breast with roasted garlic cream sauce, braised short ribs with au jus, cheddar chipotle potatoes, grilled asparagus, baby carrots, strawberry and chocolate mousse tower with berries and whipped cream

## Texercise and the Texas Retired Teachers Association: A Healthy Partnership

Physical activity and proper nutrition can improve your health at any age or fitness level. In addition to burning calories and strengthening your body, physical activity can lower the risk of developing chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure, and obesity. Activity can improve balance and strength and slow the loss of bone mass, which leads to osteoporosis. As a result, physically active people require fewer hospital stays and physician visits, use less medication than those who are physically inactive and spend less on medical needs.

To help all Texans adopt healthy lifestyles, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) developed Texercise, a statewide fitness program that educates and involves individuals and communities in physical activity and proper nutrition throughout the lifespan. It provides a variety of educational and motivational resources to help all Texans adopt healthy lifestyles. Two of Texercise's most popular resources are its handbook and DVD, both of which contain information about the program, as well as fitness facts and nutrition tips.

Another way Texercise reaches Texans is through our public, private and non-profit partners. The program's partnerships build our state's capacity for providing fitness and nutrition options, raise public awareness of DADS and the aging and disabilities network as well as provide opportunities for Texercise partners and their employees to engage in options that support healthy living.

Because of valuable partners like the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA), Texercise is able to connect with people across the state and share life enhancing information and opportunities.

If you want to receive a free copy of the Texercise handbook or DVD, or to find out ways your local TRTA unit can Texercise, contact Malu Faccio at 512.438.3646 or email [Malu.Faccio@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:Malu.Faccio@dads.state.tx.us).

*Article provided by the Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services*



TRTA 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Arlington Convention Center, Arlington • April 13–15, 2010

# CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2010**

- ☉ Mail completed form with payment to: TRTA  
Attn: Accounting  
313 E. 12th Street, Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78701
- ☉ Banquet, Breakfast, Lunch and Tour tickets sold only in advance.
- ☉ Requests for refunds **MUST** be received in the TRTA office by March 22, 2010. No on-site refunds will be issued.

## Personal Information

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

**President's Reception** WEDNESDAY (04.14.10 • 6:30 – 8 p.m.) ★ RSVP—PLEASE CHECK BOX IF ATTENDING THE **COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION** ☐

## Pre-Registration Fee

PRE-REGISTRATION	<b>PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 22, 2010</b>	
_____ \$20.00 PER PERSON	ON-SITE REGISTRATION PER PERSON \$25.00 EVERY PERSON WHO ATTENDS ANY PART OF THE CONVENTION MUST PAY REGISTRATION FEE	\$ _____

## Banquet Fee

BANQUET, THURSDAY (04.15.10 • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)	
_____ \$38.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____

## Breakfast Fees

SHERATON BREAKFAST, WEDNESDAY (04.14.10)	SHERATON BREAKFAST, THURSDAY (04.15.10)	
_____ \$10.00 PER PERSON	_____ \$10.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____
HILTON BREAKFAST, WEDNESDAY (04.14.10)	HILTON BREAKFAST, THURSDAY (04.15.10)	
_____ \$10.00 PER PERSON	_____ \$10.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____

## Lunch Fees

FOUNDATION LUNCHEON, WEDNESDAY (04.14.10)	STILWELL LUNCHEON, THURSDAY (04.15.10)	
_____ \$28.00 PER PERSON	_____ \$27.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____
CONVENTION LUNCH, WEDNESDAY (04.14.10)	CONVENTION LUNCH, THURSDAY (04.15.10)	
_____ \$17.00 PER PERSON	_____ \$17.00 PER PERSON	\$ _____

## Tour Fees

RANGERS BALLPARK, TUESDAY (04.13.10 • 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)	<b>NOTIFICATION TO TOUR PARTICIPANTS</b> If a tour is canceled because of low interest, refunds will be made within 30 days after the convention.	
_____ \$25.00 PER PERSON		\$ _____

**REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE TRTA OFFICE BY MARCH 22, 2010.**  
**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

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	-	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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▼ EXPIRATION

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<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 	<input type="checkbox"/> 
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▼ SIGNATURE

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## 2010-2011: RUNNING FOR TRTA OFFICER POSITIONS

If you are a qualified member interested in running for a TRTA office for the year 2010-2011, please complete the filing form and submit it to the TRTA office (deadline is January 15, 2010). The form can also be downloaded at [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org). In accordance with the TRTA Bylaws, the elected officers of the association shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Below are steps governing the election of TRTA Officers:

### Officers of the Organization, Article VII, Section 1.1

TRTA shall have the following statewide officers, who shall be elected or appointed as specified:

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

### Nominating Committee Guidelines TRTA Operations Policy

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

### Campaigning for TRTA Office/Position TRTA Operations Policy

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

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

### Elections, Article VIII, Section 2

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

## FILING FOR TRTA STATE OFFICE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Unit \_\_\_\_\_

I am filing for:

☐ TRTA President

☐ TRTA 1st Vice-President

☐ TRTA 2nd Vice-President

☐ TRTA Secretary/Treasurer

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

My credentials are:

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A postmark of January 15, 2010 is the deadline for TRTA to receive this completed form and a color photo.

Mail to TRTA | 313 E. 12th St., Ste. 200 | Austin, TX 78701

# OUTLOOK



## LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

### IMAGINE CAMPAIGN

Direct letter appeal to all TRTA members.

11

### 2010 TRTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

TRTF's exciting plans!

12

### SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

New applications now available.

12

## THIS IS THE SEASON TO IMAGINE

Recently you may have noticed a special envelope in your mailbox from the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF). This is because for the first time in over three years, TRTF is sending a direct appeal letter to the members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) to solicit donations.



The letter is being sent in conjunction with Foundation month, a time to raise awareness of the Foundation's charitable activities.

You may be wondering why TRTF sent this letter to you. After all, TRTF includes a donation card on the back page of *The VOICE* every quarter. The simple answer is that TRTF needs your help.

TRTA members are the backbone of the Foundation. It is because of your generosity that TRTF is successful in its philanthropic activities. In 2009, the Foundation distributed \$5000 to students pursuing degrees in education and \$2000 to teachers for innovative classroom projects. TRTF is also launching a pilot version of its newest endeavor, "A

Helping Hand," in the fall in four TRTA districts: 8, 12, 17, and 20. "A Helping Hand" aids retirees in critical need.

**TRTF will not mail multiple requests for donations to you. Additionally, TRTF is not using common direct mail gimmicks, such as address labels supplied by external vendors. "We want the members of TRTA to know that the donations they send go directly towards programs they care about, and not to an outside mail house," says Board President Tom Pritchard.**

It can be difficult at this time of year to include donations to your favorite charities in your budget; but if every member gave as little as \$10, TRTF would be able to raise an astounding \$700,000! This money in turn can aid countless individuals who need help the most. As Tom Pritchard says, "We are asking people to imagine the good that can come from their gesture!"

What does TRTF imagine in 2010? TRTF will award ten \$500 scholarships to students pursuing degrees in education and ten \$500 grants (\$3000 more than last year) to Texas public school teachers. TRTF will help retirees across Texas with dire needs, such as replacing broken air conditioners or heaters or paying for unexpected medical bills.

If you have misplaced your letter or did not receive one and wish to make a donation to TRTF in support of the Imagine Campaign, you may do so by completing the donation card on the back page of *The VOICE* or through our web site at [www.trtf.org/ways](http://www.trtf.org/ways).

*This is the Season  
to Imagine*



*The* **VOICE**

Send address changes to:  
Texas Retired Teachers Association  
313 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 200 | Austin, TX 78701-1957  
800.880.1650 | [www.trta.org](http://www.trta.org)

## LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 2010 TRTA CONVENTION

TRTF is looking forward to April 2010 when the 57th Annual Texas Retired Teachers Association Convention takes place in Arlington. The Foundation luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 14 at 12 p.m. Tickets should be purchased in advance. To register for the luncheon, please see the convention pre-registration form on page 9. Additional information about the menu and program for the luncheon will be made available in the first quarter issue of *The VOICE* in 2010. We look forward to having you as our guest!

This year, the Foundation will be raising funds for "A Helping Hand" by hosting a photo booth in the exhibition hall. For a suggested donation of \$15 (cash or check only), guests will receive a 5 x 7 photograph commemorating their experience in Arlington. To participate, stop by the Foundation's exhibitor booth during convention and schedule a time to have your picture taken.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND CLASSROOM ASSISTANCE GRANTS

TRTF has updated the guidelines for the 2010-2011 Student Scholarships and Classroom Assistance Grants. Please note that both programs have changed and the new forms are required for any student or teacher submitting an application.

Applications will be available on the TRTF web site by December 15, 2009 ([www.trtf.org/apply](http://www.trtf.org/apply)). You may also request an updated version via email by contacting Foundation Specialist Cindee Sharp at [info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org).

The deadline for submitting completed applications for each program is March 18, 2010. For the 2010-2011 school year, TRTF will award ten \$500 student scholarships and ten \$500 classroom assistance grants.

[www.trtf.org/apply](http://www.trtf.org/apply)  
[info@trtf.org](mailto:info@trtf.org)

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

# OUTLOOK

LEADING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR TEXAS EDUCATION

TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION

I WANT TO  
**HELP!**

**DONATION  
CARD**  
DONATIONS ARE  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Please accept my 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

