

**PRESERVING THE PAST – SECURING THE FUTURE**  
**Installation of Officers 2018-2020 Script**  
**By Karen Malinowsky**

It is my privilege today to install the officers for TRTA for 2018-2020.

Pearl Buck said, “If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.”

So reflecting upon the theme of Preserving the Past, Securing the Future, I would like to reference an important time in our country’s history. Settlers traveling west in wagon trains across the plains and mountains banded together for mutual assistance. Searching for new opportunities, more than 300,000 pioneers traversed the Oregon and Santa Fe trails Westward.

The horse on the lead wagon was equipped with a bell, so that when it was time for the train of wagons to resume the journey each morning, other horses would hear the ringing of the bell and thus follow the lead wagon. Today the bell is recognized as a symbol of leadership.

As I call your name, please step forward.

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As President, your duty is to lead TRTA. Much like a **WAGON TRAIN MASTER** leading thousands into new lands, you must work closely with the executive board members and district and local units across the state to ensure that TRTA continues its expansion and that retirees know that their best interests are being explored and advanced. It is vital that you arm yourself with knowledge of the past so that TRTA boldly marches into the future. This bell will be a daily reminder of the importance of your duties.

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As 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, your duty is to advance the membership of TRTA. Working like a **WAGON TRAIN SCOUT**, you will boldly search out the correct path whereby TRTA can enlist new members and create new units where needed. You will set membership goals and then work diligently with the executive board and district and local units to accomplish those goals. Acknowledging past accomplishments of TRTA will help you establish paths for the future. Here is your bell.

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As 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, your duty is to publicize TRTA and its goals. Just as the **WAGON TRAIN AGENT** made sure that the citizens in the 1800’s knew about the endless possibilities for pioneers who traveled west with a wagon train, you must get the word out so that retirees across the state are made aware of the many advantages of joining TRTA and that current members excitedly retain their membership as well. You will also coordinate and promote the

children's book project. Focusing on past successes will ensure future successes. Please take your bell.

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As Secretary/Treasurer, your duty is to maintain accurate records for TRTA. The **WAGON TRAIN PURSER** had to keep a daily log of happenings and guard the finances of the wagon train to ensure a successful conclusion to each trip. You, too, must work with the executive board to retain financial stability and accuracy, and to preserve records. Learning from past deeds involving finances and record keeping will be vital to the future of TRTA. This bell is for you.

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As Past President, your duty is to provide support and help, not only to the new President, but to the entire executive board. Just as a **SEASONED WAGON MASTER** helped in training future wagon masters, you will be available to make sure that a smooth transference of duties occurs and that you are ready to share your wisdom and experience with the executive board. Your knowledge of TRTA's past will be instrumental in helping the organization move securely into the future. This bell is for you.

Would all the new officers please stand?

I challenge each of you to know where you are going and to move in the right direction, just as the wagon trains did when they heard the ringing of the bell. Set your goals early, recognize the ability in each other and work together to advance the growth and goals of TRTA.

May these bells remind you of the challenge you have accepted. To indicate that you accept and acknowledge your new responsibilities, please ring your bell.

John F. Kennedy shared, "Let us stand together with renewed confidence in our cause, united in our heritage of the past and our hopes for the future."

As you Preserve our Past, you will be Securing the Future for TRTA.

I now declare you duly installed officers. Congratulations and Best Wishes!