

NEWSCASTER

Dallas Retired Teachers Association

Mission Statement

The Texas Retired Teachers Association promotes the professional, economic, intellectual and social well-being of retired school personnel.

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President's Message

Believe it or not, my grass is green and the Irises are blooming. Didn't the 2020 year just begin? Well, so much for "winter."

By the time you read this, the Primaries will have passed. I do hope that you exercised your right to vote. Please read the **Legislative Updates** so, that you can be politically aware. If you feel that we need change, be a part of the change by voting.

We just celebrated with a wonderful **African American History Luncheon** with fellowship, fun and delicious food. We enjoyed hearing about the African Americans who have DISD schools named for them. Mr. Linus Wright was also recognized for having the DISD Administration Building carry his name.

Our Healthy Living Chair has invited all of us to participate in **Walk Across Texas**. This is a program to encourage us to stay more active by walking. We currently have four teams of eight and working on a fifth team. It's not difficult at all. You don't even have to leave home. If you'd like more information, contact Pearlie Wallace.

There are several opportunities for you to volunteer in the community. For 2019 the Dallas Retired Teachers participated in **85,872 volunteer hours**.

I invite you to continue your membership in DRTA by paying your dues during the month of March. Look for our membership form in the mail and be sure to get it in promptly so that you can be entered into a \$50 drawing! Invite former colleagues and friends to join you in becoming a member of the only official organization representing all public school retirees.

Ten of our officers and committee chairs will travel to Corpus Christi for the **67th Texas Retired Teachers Association Convention**. Each delegate will attend sessions that will provide information about TRTA business, innovative activities for the Units, and the development of leadership skills.

I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.

Warmest regards,

VGM

Verna Mitchell
President

MARCH

Children's Book Project

Mary Jo Evans, Chair, 214-376-3565
profrevans2004@yahoo.com

Theme: Read, Read, Read! "America the Beautiful"

The United States Constitution requires a congressional election every two years, to elect members of the House of Representatives. The electors in turn elect the President and Vice-President. Students in all grades will learn new vocabulary words, follow the election process and study the history of the United States of America.



DRTA will provide books from K-12 that will help students learn more about the country they live in.

A giant thank you to Alice Martinez, secretary for DRTA, for donating books for the year 2020! Thank you for your support in the past and we surely need it in the year 2020!

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Barbara Benson, Telephone Committee Chair
214-358-4846. babbenson21@aol.com

MESSAGE TO TELEPHONE CALLERS



Contact members on March 7, 8, 9 to remind them of monthly meeting on Friday, March 13. Refreshments: 9:30 a.m. and meeting at 10:00. Program "Weatherminds." Speaker Janet Smith, Certified Master Gardener.

Please note that my phone number is as shown above — not # 4848 as listed at top of p. 22 in directory.

Cynthia Hawkins-Bowland, Chair
972 850-9718, chbowland@swbell.net

IMPORTANT DATES

EARLY VOTING for the Democratic and Republican primary begins **February 18 and ends February 28, 2020.**

ELECTION DAY VOTING is March 3, 2020.

PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION will be May 26, 2020.

IMPORTANT WEBSITES FOR RESEARCHING CANDIDATES

VoteTexas.gov: Find the candidates' names, register to vote, get information about polling places. This website is not yet updated with those Presidential Candidates who may have dropped out.

TexansForPublicEducation.com This website focuses on public education issues. You can find important information here about which candidates are rated "friendly" or "unfriendly" towards public education and public-school employees.

TRTA.org Find legislative information, who your senators and representatives are and more.

Texas Educators Vote Find out how to make your vote matter.

Raise Your Hand Texas A good site to find and learn about pro-public education candidates. They also arrange education forums throughout the state of Texas.

TRS will be testifying about their decision to pay \$326,000 per month in front of the Senate on February 25, 2020. This is an open meeting and anyone may attend to listen. TRS will later testify to the House Pensions, Investments and Financial Services Committee in early March, no date yet set. Please check your **Inside Line** from Tim Lee for more information about these meetings.

"Voting is a right best exercised by people who have taken time to learn about the issues."

Tony Snow



Richard Stoddard, Member Benefits Committee Chair
(214) 324-1089; richgrst@hotmail.com

MEMBER BENEFITS: A Reason to be a Member

The Member Benefits available through TRTA being emphasized this month are **1-800 Flowers Discount, Cruise and Vacation Benefits, and Orlando Employee Discounts.**



The first of these is **1-800-Flowers Discount.** Save 15 percent off and use code "AMBA" to receive the discount. To use this benefit, contact www.1800flowers.com.

The next benefit is **Cruise and Vacation Benefits.** This benefit provide the lowest pricing on all top cruise brands, worldwide escorted tour companies, and more than 600 resorts. There is a 4% vacation reward on base the fare of your trip and special monthly bonus offers. You may either call 1 (855) 577-9497 or e-mail www.cruiseandvacationbenefits.com/amba.



The last benefit is **Orlando Employee Discounts.** Save on your Orlando vacation with exclusive pricing on hotels & vacation homes in or nearby Disney World & Universal Studios, with discounts on tickets for Disney World, Universal Studios Orlando, Sea World, and All Orlando area theme parks and attractions. Use discount code AMBA. Call either 1 (877) 413-3557 or e-mail www.orlandoemployee discounts.com.



Mary Jo Evans, Necrology Chair, 214-376-3565
profevans2004@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

Members of DRTA

Marilyn Casey
James Curtis McClure

Non Members of DRTA

Lois Cook
Mary Creel
Norma Jean Johnson
Bettye Morgan



Pearlie Wallace, Chair, Healthy Living
214-337-8091; paw2151@sbcglobal.net

Five Suggestions for Emotional, Physical and Spiritual Well-Being



It's all a matter of CHOICE. One chooses to be happy or miserable. Allow negativity to overcome you and life will be a miserable thing to endure. Allow positivity to take over and life can become a joyful experience

Here are five suggestions of things to make your life more peaceful and balanced:

1. Stop all negative thoughts about yourself and/or others. Catch your "stinking thinking" as you are doing it.
2. Be Grateful. The more negative we are, the more difficult it is to see the good in ourselves, in others and in life in general.
3. Pray, Meditate or do Yoga. Call upon your Higher Power. Incorporate positive posture and breathing techniques in these exercises.
4. Laugh. Lighten up and don't take life so seriously.
5. Maintain a healthy connection with good friends. Always make time each day to talk with those you know who know you and love you.

**"Choice, not change, determines your destiny...
happiness and love are just a choice away."**

Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/2259031>

Nancy Whitlock, Membership Chair
214-348-0454, nswwalady@sbcglobal.net

Membership

We are now 872 members strong with more members joining every week. The month of March is our membership drive for renewing/joining DRTA. There will be a form sent to you in the mail for membership. Send it in as soon as possible so that your name can be entered into a \$50 drawing.



The Each One Bring One Contest continues, with three \$100. prizes being awarded in April at the state convention (winners do not have to be present). Bring in a new member and enter the drawing!

To clarify some confusion, the combined dues to Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) AND Dallas Retired Teachers Association (DRTA) are \$45.

When this amount is broken down: \$35 goes to TRTA, and \$10 to DRTA. The \$35 amount can be deducted from a member's retirement check, bank account, or paid to DRTA which will then be forwarded to Austin. DRTA dues, however, must be paid locally.

◆ Minnie Walker, Corresponding Secretary
214-428-8253, puddinwalker@sbcglobal.net ◆



◆ Sympathy cards sent to
◆ Dena Rhoades,
◆ Family of James C
◆ McClure and DRTA
◆ member, Ortha Samples. ◆

◆ Get Well cards sent to
◆ Helen (Bobbi) Welsh. ◆

Armella McAllister, Chair
214-339-4559
calvinmcallister@sbcglobal.net

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER



Our total DRTA Community Volunteer Service hours for 2019 was 85,872. Congratulations to all members who submitted their volunteer hours. Keep sending them in.

Suzanne Young, Chair
Information and Protective Services
972-227-6972; suszannebe@aol.com

Consumer Alert! Coronavirus Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus epidemic in China in order to steal your personal information and make money through false advertisement and fear. Fake text messages, websites and social media posts are used to phish for personal information, sell bogus products and request donations.



Visit **official** websites for up-to-date information. **Do not click** on website addresses in emails, text messages or social media. Type the website address (url) into the address bar of your browser to go to official websites.

Do your homework!

Visit the following websites for official up-to-date information about the coronavirus and for protection from scams:

Federal Trade Commission – <https://www.ftc.gov>
Click on "Get Consumer Alerts"

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov>

World Health Organization – <https://www.who.int>

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission https://www.sec.gov/oiea/investor-alerts-and-bulletins/ja_coronavirus

Dallas Retired Teachers Association
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Dated Material

Rosa Brooks, Chair, 214- 351-1985
rosalb97@sbcglobal.net

E. D. WALKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND



In Memory Of

Barbara Stoddard
Marilyn Casey

Donor

Marelou Cisneros
Deanna Honey

If you would like to contribute to this fund in honor of or in memory of someone, please send your donations and all pertinent information to

Rosa Brooks
5335 Drane Drive
Dallas, Texas 75209-5501

Deralyn White, Social Committee Chair
214-729-4408
deralynwhite@sbcglobal.net



SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Kudos to the **Luncheon Committee** for an outstanding job with the African Heritage Luncheon.

The Social Committee will spring back into action for our March general meeting. Expect delicious, delectable refreshments from Team March!

On The Horizon

Executive Board Meetings 10:00 a.m.

Friday, March 6, 2020

Friday, April 3, 2020

Meadows Conference Center
2900 Live Oak Street
Dallas, TX 75204

*******General Meetings*******

Friday, March 13, 2020

10 a.m.

Program : "Weatherminds."
Speaker Janet Smith
Certified Master Gardener

Friday, April 10, 2020

10 a.m.

Meadows Conference Center
2900 Live Oak Street
Dallas, TX 75204