

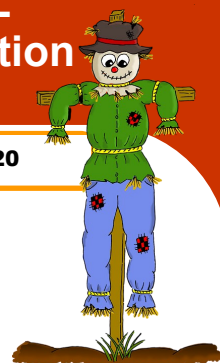
RICHARDSON RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

An Affiliate of the Texas Retired Teachers Association



Volume 31, Issue 2

October, 2020



FROM THE PRESIDENT - *Standing Together. . . Standing Tall!*

The Story from Cori: Wow! Our September ZOOM meeting was a great success due to so many of you joining us...and our speaker from the City of Richardson gave us wonderful preparedness guidance as well as particularly useful handouts. Have you bought a NOAA weather radio yet, anyone?!

Now it is October and we are gearing up for election season! At our October 15th ZOOM RRSP meeting we will begin early – at 11AM – for a candidate forum. **Jack Noteware** has all the information in his legislative article in this newsletter. I certainly hope many of you will choose to attend that hour as well as the regular meeting at noon! RISD Superintendent **Dr. Jeannie Stone** is always a fantastic speaker, and I'm sure this year she has many things to share about the "new normal" in education.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

We would like to start collecting an emergency contact name and phone number from each member starting NOW. There have been several occasions in the last few months where a member has not been reachable by phone, email, or paper mail. Other member(s) have become concerned and reached out to the board to help find the member. Sometimes we know the family or friends of the "missing" member, but at times we don't and have not been able to find anyone to call.

This emergency contact information would NOT be made public or used for anything but emergencies. We would not use it for membership renewals either. Only three board members would have access to these contacts. The information would not be supplied to inquiring members – one of US would call the emergency contact to ascertain the member's safety or situation.

It is YOUR CHOICE as to whether you want to give us an emergency contact. Next year's membership form will include this optional line item, but right now I would like to start collecting them. Please email me at coripratt57@yahoo.com or call me – 469-231-7229 – and supply the following information:

1. Emergency Contact Name
2. Relationship to You
3. Phone number

You are welcome to mail it to me if desired: 7631 Pennyburn Dr., Dallas, TX 75248

It was so good to "SEE" you at the September meeting! Looking forward to the 15th and seeing your smiling faces again!

Happy Fall! Cori Pratt, President



October ZOOM Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2020

11:00 AM—11:45 AM Candidate Forum

12:00 PM—1:00 PM Regular Meeting

Program Speaker: Dr. Jeannie Stone, RISD Superintendent

To make a reservation, email coripratt57@yahoo.com or call (469)231-7229.

The ZOOM meeting link will be sent out to all who make a reservation. This link will give you access to the meeting via your computer, laptop, iPad, or smart phone.



October 15 Program: State of the District Update



Have you been able to keep up with all of the changes and difficulties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic? **Dr. Jeannie Stone, RISD Superintendent**, will be sharing the latest answers and solutions that RISD has been implementing. ZOOM in for the update and bring any questions you may have for Dr. Stone.

Kathy Carter & Trish Bittle, 3rd VP Program Co-Chairs



October Legislative Report

To start our October 15 RRSP meeting, from 11:00 AM -11:45 AM, it is my intent to have a **State Representative Candidate Forum** for candidates in our area. There are twelve candidates in our area for the following Districts:

- ◆ **DISTRICT 66:** Sharon Hirsch (D), Matt Shaheen (R, Incumbent)
- ◆ **DISTRICT 67:** Lorenzo Sanchez (D), Jeff Leach (R, Incumbent)
- ◆ **DISTRICT 89:** Ray Ash (D), Candy Noble (R, Incumbent)
- ◆ **DISTRICT 102:** Ana-Maria Ramos (D, Incumbent), Linda Koop (R)
- ◆ **DISTRICT 112:** Brandy Chambers (D), Angie Button (R, Incumbent)
- ◆ **DISTRICT 114:** John Turner (D, Incumbent), Luisa del Rosal (R)

MEMBERS, DO NOT SAY YOU ARE NOT POLITICAL! In doing so, you are saying you do not care about your pension fund, pension cost of living raises (COLA), health care costs, and current/future teachers. I hope we will have 80 or more people to ZOOM with the candidates and hear their positions on retired teachers, TRS, and what their priorities will be in the 2021 Legislative Session. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EVERYONE will be asking for money for their causes. As a TRTA Local Unit, we need to find out how the candidates will support retired teachers and keep TRS adequately funded as well as their support for public education. You will receive ZOOM information prior to the October meeting.

One voting advisement, whether you are voting at the polls or via mail, is "**READ THE ENTIRE BALLOT**" from top to bottom. Voters can no longer vote a straight party ticket, so READ the entire ballot.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 5, 2020 **Last Day to Register to Vote**
- October 23, 2020 **Vote by Mail Application Due**
- October 12 - 30, 2020 **Early Voting Period**
- November 3, 2020, 7 AM - 7 PM **ELECTION DAY**



Jack Noteware, Legislative Chair
jdnoteware@att.net, 214-856-3840



Officers
for the
2021-2023
Biennium

In November, the RRSP nominating committee will present a slate of candidates to fill four RRSP positions for the 2021-23 biennium in addition to the Presidency to be filled by **Kathy Grogan**, our current President-Elect. The offices include: Secretary, 1st Vice President (Membership), 2nd Vice-President (Public Relations), and 2nd Vice President (Children's Book Project). The election will be held in February.

We appreciate the following officers who have agreed to continue in their positions: **Jeannette Winkelmann**, Secretary and **Carla Bremer**, 2nd V. P. Public Relations. If you are willing to be nominated for the positions of 1st V.P. Membership or 2nd V.P. Children's Book Project, please let me know.

Thank you for your help!

Tobi Bray, Nominating Committee Chair

tobibray@att.net 214-906-2545 (c)



Texas Retired Teachers Foundation

Let me start out by reminding you what TRTF is and does. It provides resources for retired TRS annuitants, as well as active and beginning teachers. It is the charitable partner organization of TRTA.

It has beginning teacher scholarships for first-year educators. It has classroom assistance grants for current educators to assist with classroom projects. It is a helping hand for retirees and active educators struggling financially after natural disasters in Texas such as hurricanes. It promotes a positive image of public education in Texas and provides resources for educators of all generations to connect with one another and learn about TRS.

TRTF will award 25 \$750 scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year to candidates who are earning an undergraduate or master's degree at a Texas university or college and have taken or are planning to take their teaching certification exam or pursuing alternative certification. TRTF will also provide 40 \$500 grants to 40 public school teachers in Texas for the 2021-2022 school year.

November is Foundation Month, however, we will be postponing our chocolate auction until later in the year when we hopefully can have an actual meeting. The success of it depends on our being able to get together, bring our chocolate items, and auction them off. This is our primary way of donating to TRTF as a local unit.

Laura Snow, Texas Retired Teacher Foundation Local Chair

Treasurer's Note

Financial Information for August, 2020

August Beginning Balance	\$12,072.44
Deposits	\$ 1,454.33
Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,486.71</u>
August Ending Balance	\$ 11,680.06

Elaine Simmons, Treasurer
elaine23@swbell.net, 214-356-0355



The Pandemic Continues

As the pandemic continues, remember the one thing you can control is YOURSELF. Two things you should be doing are “Stick to a schedule each day” and “Practice random acts of kindness often.”

Be aware of the things you can control. On a sheet of paper, draw a line down the middle. Label one side what You CAN control and the other side what You CANNOT control.

You CAN control

- How you spend your time
- With whom you spend time
- How you care for yourself
- Going to bed at the same time each night
- Talking to yourself using the third person point of view

You CANNOT control

- When there will be a safe vaccine or cure for COVID 19
- When someone you know gets sick

You have heard the expression LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE.

Benefits of laughing (especially laughing out loud):

- Helps you breathe better
- Is good for the cardiovascular system
- Calms stress hormones
- Burns calories
- Can reduce blood pressure
- Decreases anger
- Is a sign of good will toward others
- May act as an antidepressant
- Brings more joy to others
- Changes your perspective
- Provides a workout
- Improves memory function
- Is an immune booster



Laughter
is an
instant
vacation. 😊
- Milton Berle

Try: www.rd.com>humor>funny Funny Photos You Won't Be Able to Stop Laughing At.

Try this exercise video on U-Tube: 15-minute sample workout for Older Adults from Go4Life

FINALLY – Remember the 3 W's – **Wear** a mask, **Wash** your hands, **Watch** your distance.

Liz Zsohar, Health and Protective Services Chairman

Children's Book Project



May books have been delivered to the schools. We are ready for our fall purchase of books and delivery. Thank you for your support of the Book Project.

Betty Robb and **Melinda Smith**, Book Project Co-Chairs

Member News and Notes

Hello RRSP members! As we welcome Fall and October, hopefully you are continuing to stay safe and healthy. Little did we know that after seven months, COVID-19 would still be with us. During these challenging times, our fortitude is being tested, but I believe we will pass with flying colors. We have experienced many changes – one of which is not being able to give hugs as we were accustomed to doing. Now giving hugs must be done virtually or by social distancing. Even though it doesn't take the place of a real hug, I am sending you hugs in the form of a poem. I hope you enjoy it, and if you do, please pass it on.



Hugs

*It's wondrous what a hug can do,
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say, "I love you so"
Or, "Gee! I hate to see you go."
A hug is, "Welcome back again" and
"Great to see you!" "Where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small child's pain
And say "I love you just the same."
There never could be any doubt
That we could even live without
A hug.*

Many RRSP members participated in our September Zoom meeting conducted by our savvy President, Cori Pratt. Officers and Committee Chairs shared important and interesting information. Liz Zsohar led us in exercises and suggested ways that we can exercise in the comfort of our own homes. Brenda Duckett shared many ways of volunteering and encouraged us to track our hours. Members also took time to visit and catch up. Melanie Cottam shared a lovely quilt that she has made. We are all in awe of her talent.

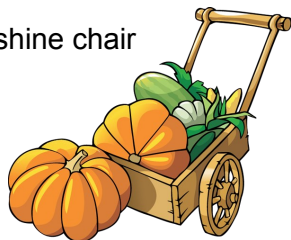
Health Update: Frank Bray had hernia surgery in August and ablation to correct his heart flutters in September. Let's keep Frank in our thoughts and prayers.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of those who have recently passed away.

- Susan Dortch's husband, Ken, on September 18th. Ken and Susan were married 56 years.
- Gloria Meadow Gray of Richardson on September 6, 2020. Gloria was a librarian for a total of 22 years at Hamilton Park and Lake Highlands Elementary schools.
- Babette "Babs" Carol Rakofsky on September 20, 2020 in Allen, Texas. Babs taught 3rd and 4th grade at both Dover Elementary and Hamilton Park Elementary. A celebration of Babs life was held on September 25, 2020.
- Mary Alice Turner, age 82, on September 15, 2020. Mary Alice taught in RISD for over 40 years as a Mohawk teacher, CATS teacher, consultant, and principal of Arapaho Elementary.
- Laura Muckelroy on September 18, 2020. Laura was a Special Ed teacher and later Assistant Principal at Hamilton Park.

Remember, "Hope is never cancelled."

Paula Rhodes—Sunshine chair





Christmas Just Around the Corner!

We will be having our annual Toy Drive again this year to help Network stock its shelves for distribution to qualifying families and children in the Richardson ISD. Please see the list and instructions below.

Brenda Duckett, Community Volunteer Service



Toddlers	3 to 7 years old	8 to 12 years old
Musical Mobile	Building Sets and Legos	Sports Equipment
Musical/light up toys	Play-Dough Kits	Journal Sets
Board books	Crayons with Coloring Books	Art, Jewelry, Nail & Craft Kits
Crib mirrors	Art and Craft Kits	Science Kits
Stacking toys	Play Food or Kitchen Sets	Building Sets and Legos
Shape sorters	Doll House Toys	Remote Control Cars
Rattles	Baby Dolls	Action Figures & Transformers
Teethers	Barbie	Bath Products
Textured blocks or balls	Littlest Pet Shop	
Plastic links	Train Sets	
	Mr. Potato Head	
	Toy Trucks and Cars	
	Toy medical kits (Fisher Price)	

You are asked to deliver your unwrapped toys to **Network of Community Ministries**, 741 S. Sherman St., Richardson 75081 between now and December 23. Days and times are M-W from 8:00-4:00 and Thursday from noon until 8:00. The person accepting your donation will ask donor for information, and you can let them know it is from Richardson Retired School Personnel.

Community Service During a Pandemic

Stay safe and protect yourself and your loved ones is the name of the game. Volunteering within the community looks different in 2020. Some of you may be able to continue your volunteer activities, but most of us cannot. However, sometimes we are volunteering and do not even realize it. What are you doing for others? Phone calls? Small group planning sessions in person or on Zoom, such as planning for church, Sunday School, RRSP or other clubs you belong to, taking care of checking on a relative or babysitting? How about driving a friend or relative to a doctor's appointment or helping them with their grocery shopping?

A volunteer form for tracking your hours has been developed and is ready for YOU. You can find a copy on the next page of this newsletter, and an e-copy is being sent by Ginger Mayo. The form is for January-December 2020 and may be emailed to me or mailed to my home on or before December 31.

Thanks to all,

Brenda Duckett, Community Volunteer Service Chair



RICHARDSON RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

VOLUNTEER HOURS TRACKING FORM

January 2020 thru December 2020

Your Name: _____

January _____

February _____

March _____

April _____

May _____

June _____

July _____

August _____

September _____

October _____

November _____

December _____

Total Hours _____



Please complete form and send to Brenda Duckett by December 31:

Email: bduckett2@netzero.com OR

Mail: 3208 Thorne Hill Ct., Richardson 75082

Questions: 214-577-5217

We can do this!! Brenda Duckett