

# ECARSE NEWS

Erath County Association of Retired School Employees  
Erath County, Texas



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### We continue to Zoom!

We had another successful meeting on October 6 via Zoom. (See "October 6 Meeting Notes, page 1.) Several of the officers and committee chairs have had extra meetings via Zoom as well. The District 15 Fall Meeting was held October 8, again via Zoom. (See "D15 Fall Meeting Notes, page 2.) While we have experienced some glitches, it is certainly better than nothing, and I think we are getting better each time. I can remember in-person meetings that didn't go as planned, too!

### Meetings & Programs

**Nov. 3: Health Concerns for seniors, Dr. Jeff Moore; Hospital update, Chris Lieu**

(There will be no meeting in December.)

Jan: Estate Planning, Carey Fraser

Feb: Handling Medical Emergencies, Colby Swearingen

Mar: Chris Kyle Trial, Alan Nash

Apr: TSU Update, VP of Student Affairs Dr. Kelli Styron

May: Life of Bees, Woodrow Horner

**YOTE! YOTE! YOTE! YOTE! YOTE!**

### October 6 ECARSE Meeting Highlights:

Dr. Matt Underwood, Stephenville ISD Superintendent, discussed education in the Covid 19 era:

- \* Unexpected "test" of remote learning last spring; SISD was better prepared, already 1:1 with iPads
  - \* Teacher training focused on new platforms, such as Canvas & Seesaw, to deliver announcements, documents, video, assignment/work delivery
  - \* Many challenges: masks, distancing, sanitizing, class size, extra lunch periods, busing, substitutes, changing athletic schedules to accommodate other schools' Covid problems, keeping our students in contact with other schools safe & healthy
  - \* Teacher fatigue, frustration with added work & taking care of their own families
- Dr. Underwood also discussed the progress of construction projects, including pictures!
- \* SHS Ag "state of the art" facility finished
  - \* New gym awaiting windows (now installed)
  - \* New auditorium/theater still in progress
  - \* Some inside renovations underway
  - \* Projected finish is October 2001

### TRTA District 15 Fall Meeting Highlights:

Our District 15 Fall Meeting was held, via Zoom, on October 8, President Janis Petronis presiding.

- \* Memorial for members lost
- \* State Vice President Marcy Cann encouraged us to meet & exceed our membership goals: 100,000 ++
- \* Legislative: BJ Rankin has arranged for us to meet with our state legislators after the November 3 elections
- \* TRS representatives said our pension fund was hit hard by the pandemic economic downfall, but has already recovered, emphasizing it has never missed a payment & is not in crisis
- \* TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee discussed launching the TRTFoundation Tutoring opportunity for members

### October 6 ECARSE Committee Reports:

Community Volunteer Services: Mary Waters  
Keep up with your hours! It shows the legislature our value to the community. Due in January!

Informative & Protective Services: Kathy Hyde  
Sent via Facebook, email, & website, watch out for new scams surfacing with ties to the pandemic, especially those asking for personal information.

Healthy Living: Laree Blagg  
Take care during this unusual time, especially to health issues, keep up with your regular checkups, & get your flu shot!

Legislative: Judith Meador  
September 29 Special Election for state senator (resulted in a runoff now scheduled for December 19 between Springer & Luther); General Election November 3: early voting underway, all at Graham Street Church of Christ Family Center; Legislative Zoom with our state legislators in November, details after the election is finalized

Membership: Vicki Cook  
Continuing to grow, at 114 locally, 87,705 statewide; encourage others!

Retirement Education: Judith Meador  
Seminars will be virtual this year!

Member Benefits: Vickie Walker  
Sent via Facebook, email, & website, be sure to check the MASA benefit & others at trta.org

Scholarships: Kathy Hyde  
Our student teacher scholarship went to Deb Mendoza, an SHS graduate assigned to SISD

Technology & Public Relations: Jan Vaughn  
Posting ECARSE & District 15 pictures as we met to Facebook & our website, trta.org/district15/erath

### What does TRTA/ECARSE do for you?

- \* Your voice with the Texas Legislature
- \* Your voice with the US Congress (GPO, WEP)
- \* Did you get a "TRS supplement check" last fall? Yes!
- \* Maintain affordable health insurance
- \* Our hope for a COLA
- \* Information: trta.org, The Voice, The Inside Line
- \* Member benefits: check out trta.org, benefits  
You can save well over \$50 you paid in dues!

### ECARSE Officers & Committee Chairs

President: Melinda Petross  
Past President & Parliamentarian: Linda Doyle  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Membership: Vicki Cook  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Programs: Darlene Adcock  
Secretary: Judith Meador  
Treasurer: Jean Rucker  
Monthly Audit: Jeanne McEndree  
Community Volunteer Service: Mary Waters  
Informative & Protective Services: Kathy Hyde  
Healthy Living: Laree Blagg  
Legislative: Judith Meador  
Member Benefits: Vickie Walker  
Technology: Jan Vaughn  
Public Relations/Historian: Jan Vaughn  
Scholarships: Kathy Hyde  
Book Project & Auction: Yvonne Jenkins  
Foundation Representative: Kathy Hyde  
Yearbook & Member Contacts: Mary Jones

\*WANT TO VOLUNTEER? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

Renew/Join: \$50 state & local dues  
Mail you check, payable to "ECARSE", to:

*Jean Rucker, ECARSE Treasurer  
118 Ben Hogan  
Stephenville, Texas 76401*

Please include a note with your name, mailing address, and phone number.

Help TRTA reach 100,000 members! Add your spouse, children, & others interested in the benefits, news, & excellent programs provided.

As of October 22, we have 87,705 members statewide!

Please let us know if you need to receive our communications by US Mail ...  
Call Melinda Petross at 325-642-5924 OR  
email to [susan.petross@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.petross@yahoo.com) OR  
write to Melinda Petross  
2606 Holly Street  
Stephenville, Texas 76401  
Otherwise, we will communicate by email.

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**