



HARTA

**Humble Area Retired Teachers Association
Local Unit of Texas Retired Teachers Association
(TRTA) - District 4**

Open to all retired school personnel

HARTA OFFICERS

President.....Marian Mannix
1ST VP Membership.....Brenda Pearson
2nd VP Books & PRJan Resell
3rd VP Programs.....Cathy Shepard
Secretary.....Sandra Fountain
Treasurer.....Marjo Stach
Parliamentarian.....Mary Widmier
Past President.....Pat Kahak
Newsletter EditorMarjorie Isgitt



**HARTA MEETING DATES
2020-2021**

August 17, 2020ZOOM @ 10 AM
September 14, 2020ZOOM @ 10 AM
October 19, 2020ZOOM @ 10 AM
December 7, 2020ZOOM @ 10 AM
ZOOM or ISC CENTER
February 15, 2021TBA
April 19, 2021TBA
May 17, 2021TBA

HARTA Facebook & webpage can be reached at:
<https://trta.org/humble/>
Need to contact us?
hartamembersemail@gmail.com

MUSINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARIAN



Hello HARTA Members,

Did you notice that many stores have Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations on display before Halloween? It seems that this happens earlier each year.

Seeing the displays encourages special shopping for gifts. I THINK that I am ready but that remains to be seen because usually I discover that I should have purchased just one more thing! The holidays are fast approaching and most of you have plans to spend time with family. It becomes a time when special memories are formed. Planned meals, desserts, and beautiful pictures record those precious times. As I look back on photos of our family, I can't help smiling because of the fun times our togetherness brought.

This year due to the pandemic many families have cancelled holiday traveling. The usual holiday plans are set aside for now. Hopefully, this pandemic will be over soon and perhaps we all can get back to some sense of normalcy. On the news: a vaccine will be ready for the general public in the spring of 2021. It is a two-dose vaccine and reportedly 95% effective. Its long-term effect is not known at this time but I like to think positive! A vaccine reduces the severity of symptoms should one catch the virus. In the meantime, wearing a mask and social-distancing when out in public is now considered routine and helpful.

We will continue our meetings in ZOOM through May of 2021. The next HARTA ZOOM meeting is Monday, December 7th, 10:00 AM. I'll send the INVITE to join shortly before that date.

Continue to be kind to one another, stay safe and well.



***The Voice of all Public
Education Retirees***



NOVEMBER

1	Sandra	Eleby
2	Sylvia	Hale
	Linda	Rhodes
3	Marlys	Lackey
	James	Nerad
4	Sunny	Smith
5	Lynda	Young
7	Linda	Avina
	Susan	Burroughs
	Sondra	Pate
9	Paula	Almond
11	Sally	Johnson
	Cynthia	Piggott
12	RaDonna	Gideon
13	Patricia	Fisher
	Daisy	Hall
	Kendra	Wetuski
14	Carol	McNally
15	Kathy	Sexton
16	Josephine	Barrientez
	Tina	Bivin
	Ann	Nimitz
17	Jeanette	Guidry
	Patsy	Mancivalano
18	Karen	Hooper
	Melvyn	Reading
19	Marilyn	Ballard
20	Euline	Roberts
21	Carol	Atwood
	Betty	Graham
	Beverly	Joyce
	Barbara	Reynolds
	Sandra	Thomas
22	Mary Ann	Dos Santos
	Cheryl	Moore
24	Patricia	Buttermore
	Paula	Hall
	Mary	Peterson
	Brenda	Storey
25	Lynn	Fair
	Elaine	Kimzey
	Ruby	Wells
26	Marjo	Stach
29	Lynette	Calfee
	Mark	Clapp
	Hilda	Meyer

DECEMBER

6	Jacqueline	Navarro
	Joe	Weir
7	Toni	Gentili
8	Autumn	Hawes
9	Claudia	Brookover
	Beverly	Silloway
11	Linda	Chow
	Dorma	Kindle
12	Marian	Mannix
13	Cathy	Reading
14	James	Ellis
	Susan	Lastrapes
	Angie	Shepherd
15	Katherine	Bash
16	J C	Evans
19	Betty	Austin
21	Irmgard	Davis
	Patsy	Hicks-Faulkenberry
22	Mimi	Monks
24	Bette	Guillo
	Brenda	Pearson
	Dolly	Smith
26	Angela	Doepping
	Dwight	Meyer
29	Kathy	Johnson
	Lois	Wellborn
31	Peggy	Bussard
	Artie	DeHart
	Dennis	Flim

JANUARY

1	Peggy	Hanks
2	Terri	Parker
4	Susan	LeMaster
	Kay	Signorelli
	Gloria	Vallejo
7	Diann	Millstid
8	Nancy	Schettler
9	Nancy	Rogers
11	Libby	Sievertson
12	Kathy	Dodgen
13	Virginia	Cowen
	Janet	Orth
14	Cathy	Shepard
15	Carolyn	Austin
	Cynthia	Jones
17	Emelyn	Stalnaker
19	Donna	Belger
	Juanita	Jordan
20	Charles	Cezeaux
22	Janine	Nerad
23	Gayle	Noll
	Jan	Sherrill
24	Genie	Pearce
25	Linda	Freeman
	Lois	Ventura
	Cheryll	Williams
26	Marcy	Keating
	Paula	McKinley
27	Gayle	Sampley
	Veronica	Vickery
30	Bill	Beard





DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

- Cathy Shepeard

HARTA members, please join us on Monday, December 7th, as we welcome TRTA Director Tim Lee to our Zoom

meeting. Some of the topics that Tim may give us information on are:

- Update on the TRTF Tutoring Program
- Changes to look for in TRTA
- Things we should be working on
- How the legislature will be meeting
- Any other pertinent information that we need to know.

Tim always has a wealth of information!



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- Brenda Pearson

We now have 362 HARTA members and 44 friends.

The big job this month is to get the directory printed. An email is going out to every paid member asking for all corrections to the information in the database. Emails were sent before November 16 to those whose last names begin with letters A-N. The remainders were being sent out during the week of November 16. If you have not received this "database correction" email, you should call, because there could be a problem with your email address. In fact, some members did not give an email address.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Brenda Pearson. The directory should be ready for printing by the last week of November. You will be able to get your directory in December. The plan is for you to stop by a designated location at a designated time, yet to be determined. There is a short time still available for those who have not yet paid dues to do so. Look for the membership renewal form at the end of this newsletter.



HEALTHY LIVING

- Linda Rhodes

Ten Ordinary Fruits with Amazing Health Benefits

1. Grapefruit may help prevent diabetes and other chronic diseases
2. Blueberries can help support healthy weight loss
3. Apples can play a role in zapping cholesterol
4. Tangerines can help support metabolic health
5. Strawberries should be part of an anti-cancer diet
6. 6 Dried plums are good food for your bones
7. Cranberries can help preserve your healthy smile
8. Grapes are inflammation squelchers, helping ward off disease
9. Bananas may help curb your appetite, aiding weight loss
10. Pears support a healthy digestive system

Mixed Berry Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup cranberry juice
- 3/4 cup frozen mixed berries (strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries)
- 1 – 6-ounce container yogurt (non-fat Greek yogurt or low-fat berry-flavored yogurt)
- 1 banana

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Blend for a few seconds on high speed.

Makes 2 servings

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Proverb



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES (CVS)

-Margaret Fahrenthold

Click this link to turn in your volunteer hours!
margaret46@suddenlink.net

Include your name, number of hours, date, and (optional) how you earned the hours. Thank you for helping HARTA and TRTA document the help of seniors.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

- Carolyn Monroe

REPEAL THE 1980'S WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION (WEP)

H.R.3934: Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019

Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX), along with Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA), has introduced H.R. 3934, the Equal Treatment for Public Servants Act in the 116th Congress. It repeals the 1980's era WEP which impacts 1.7million public servants and instead, bases Social Security on real life earnings and work history.

For the first time, all of our elected officials have signed on to Co-Sponsor this Legislation. We anxiously await H.R. 3934 or similar legislation being allowed to come to a vote. I plan to thank them for finally supporting this legislation.

Senators Ted Cruz and John Cornyn

Representative Dan Crenshaw



FOUNDATION NEWS!

- Glenda Laney

November is Foundation Month. You can read Tim Lee's online message in which he summarized the various programs funded by the Foundation. The newest program is entitled "TRTF Tutor Initiative." As a retired teacher, you can reap two benefits by participating: 1) You can earn \$30-40 per hour for hourly sessions with no TRS penalty, AND 2) you can help a struggling student with your expertise.

If this investment interests you, you can contact TRTF at 1(800) 880-1650. But if this commitment does not suit you, you can also help by making a tax-deductible donation to the program which reduces the cost of tutorial services for families in need. Yes, teachers are givers in many ways.

**HARTA welcomes Glenda Laney,
our new Foundation Chairperson.**



RETIREMENT EDUCATION

- Pat Kahak

Like everything else, the COVID has changed the way we will do retirement seminars. TRTA's Retirement Seminar season is well underway with three events held in October and two upcoming in November and December. The bulk of the virtual events will start in January, 2021. TRS counselors will not be traveling until after March 31.

Presently, I am working with the Committee chairs from the other units in District 4 to host a district-wide virtual retirement seminar in Spring, 2021. More information will be sent out as we complete the planning.

NEW NEWS ITEM

From Treasurer Marjo Stach:

Thank you all for your most generous donations for our Holiday Project. So far we have collected \$875.



From Secretary Sandra Fountain:

The minutes from the October 19 Zoom meeting were approved by committee. I would like to thank the members of our minutes review committee for taking the time to review the minutes each month: Tina Smith, Marian Mannix, Brenda Pearson, and Marjo Stach.



BOOK PROJECT

- Jan Resell

The Book Project is still on hold until we can determine a safe way to go into schools to deliver books. Please continue to collect new and gently used books. In the meantime, if you have any recent magazines, we are collecting them for the Tullis Library.



MEMBER BENEFITS

- Becky Hendricks

ESTATE PLANNING AND PROTECTING THE NEST EGG

December – the month to get loose ends tied up for a fresh start to the coming New Year! We've put in the years and worked diligently for our retirement. We love our families. It is imperative that we make ourselves aware of the importance of properly planning *and* executing that action plan to protect our families, our income and our assets.

Small sparks can start big fires. Money issues can, have, and will create dissention within family units. Whether you're starting at step one of the process or it's a refresher, we can all benefit from the upcoming educational seminar on **Estate Planning and Protecting the Nest Egg**. These two highly important topics go hand-in-hand. As such, **Eric Hunt with AMBA will be conducting an educational seminar via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9th, at 6:00 PM.**

You are encouraged to attend. If you have a spouse, significant other, and/or adult children, they are also welcome to attend. The Zoom "seating" is limited to 300, **so please email Eric with your RSVP.** He will email to you the Zoom meeting invitation with the link. Prior to the educational seminar, you are welcome to call, text or email to him questions you may have. Eric can be reached as follows:

Direct phone and text: 281.636.9321

Email: eric.hunt@amba.info



INFORMATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES - Virginia Cowen

CDC has issued some health and safety steps for Americans to take while celebrating Holidays amid the pandemic.

Low Risk Holidays Activities

The CDC released a list of low-risk activities that families can follow to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household
- Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family
- Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday
- Watching sporting events, parades, and movies from home

Moderate Risk Holiday Activities

Here's the CDC's list of moderate risk Holiday activities that have more potential to spread the virus:

- Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Attending small outdoor sports events with safety precautions in place

High Risk Holiday Activities

According to the CDC, these activities around Holidays could increase someone's chances of becoming infected by the coronavirus:

- Going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving
- Participating or being a spectator at a crowded race
- Attending crowded parades
- Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgment and increase risky behaviors
- Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household



TRIPS AND TOURS

- Carolyn Mashburn

All trips sponsored by Carolyn Mashburn.

Sign up at 281-460-8255 or carolynmashburn44@gmail.com

Our idea of “travel” is absolutely different from usual. While being careful, quite a few HARTA members are still getting together and enjoying each other as well as new activities. Look at the list below and see if you might like to join us.

1. **PICNICS** – Each Friday at noon (weather permitting) we gather in Town Center Park. Bring your chair, your lunch or snack, your beverage of choice and join us. We social distance and catch up! We also welcome guests and were especially excited to have had Susan Burroughs’ daughter Ashley and granddaughter Brianna two weeks in a row. Those Jersey Girls were especially welcomed by the grandparents who have not enjoyed up-close-and-personal interaction with their own cherubs since spring.

2. **WALKS** – Each Tuesday at 9 we gather at the St. Stephens Society parking lot across from First Methodist in Kingwood. Wear your workout clothes and join us for a gorgeous walk featuring fall colors, blue herons, egrets, and other wild life. Turn around points are marked for 1 mile, 2 mile, or 5 K (3.1 miles) courses. Co-sponsored by Trips & Tours and Healthy Living Committees.

3. **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** – Recently we were invited to participate in Operation Gratitude and write short thank you notes to first responders, those serving our country in the military and health care personnel. Stationary and instructions were distributed and collected at two of the picnics. Eighteen members wrote over 200 cards which were mailed to this non-profit on our behalf.

4. **BUS TOURS** -The Brookwood Community welcomes us on December 11th. Our buses will leave the ISC at 9 AM that Friday. For every 10 to 12 riders, we receive a 26-passenger bus for social distancing. Masks are required. The cost to you is \$5 + whatever you spend. A docent on each bus will direct us around the campus on a riding tour to explain the various programs offered by this outstanding facility for adults with developmental disabilities. After the tour comes lunch and shopping in both the nursery and gift shop, both decorated for Christmas. This is a great opportunity to give yourself and someone else a treat. All sales go to support the community.

5. **TRIPS & TOURS IN 2021** - Precinct 4 is back in the bus business, so we anticipate trips in January, February, March, April, and May. Ideas welcome! Contact Carolyn via phone or email with your suggestions and read the HARTA Newsletter to find out where we are going.



Friday Picnic in the Park: Baby Brianna, mom Ashley, grandmother Susan Burroughs, Fran Simister, Glenda Laney, Linda Rhodes, Marjo Stach, Carolyn Mashburn, Faith Hiller, Jeanne Barton, Patty Murphy, Brenda Pearson, Jan Resell.



Linda Rhodes, Faith Hiller, Fran Simister



Carolyn Mashburn with Volunteer Thank You notes



Walking Group: Cathy Reading, Linda Rhodes, Caroline Mashburn, Mary Lou Purello, Marjo Stach, Kathy Spirakes, Latreca Black

HONORING HARTA MEMBERS

Jane Nelson--HARTA's FIRST PRESIDENT

Jane Nelson's family had booked Walden Country Club for her 90th birthday on September 1st, but because of COVID it was cancelled. After daughter, Sharon, mentioned on Facebook Jane's disappointment, many surprises were on their way to Jane.

On her birthday she was called to the foyer of Watercrest and was met by three former students with a beautiful bouquet of 90 roses and a proclamation from the City of Humble naming Sept. 1, 2020, as the Jane Worth Buckow Turner Day in Humble, Texas. She has now received 150 birthday cards, one even a month later.

Jane says she never could have dreamed such wonderful things happening and that "God blessed me so with a profession where I made a difference in so many lives."

HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY, Jane!!



Jill Allen—Pearl Harbor SURVIVOR

HARTA member Jill Allen is one of three known child survivors in the Houston area of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. She belongs to the Blue Bonnet Chapter of The Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors.

As a graduate of Texas Tech, Jill will be honored in an article in the December **Texas Techsan** alumni magazine Winter 2020 edition.





JOIN THESE HAPPY HARTA MEMBERS TODAY! FILL OUT AND MAIL IN THE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Humble Area Retired Teachers Association & Texas Retired Teachers Association Membership Enrollment Form

TRTA DUES \$35.00 PER YEAR / HARTA DUES \$5.00 PER YEAR/TOTAL DUES \$40.00

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **AMOUNT PAID** _____

STREET: _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** TX **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **EMAIL:** _____

From which school/dept./district did you retire? _____ Your Birthday (mo. & day) _____

Referred by _____

Make checks payable to HARTA. Mail to: HARTA, PO BOX 5102, Humble, TX 77325, Attn: Marjo Stach

HARTA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

"In Memory or In Celebration"

Your Name _____ Amount _____

Check one: _____ In Memory _____ In Celebration Of (name) _____

Name and Address for Acknowledgement Letter:

Make checks to HARTA & indicate SCHOLARSHIP DONATION on the memo line. Mail to HARTA, PO Box 5102, Kingwood, TX 77325

ATTN: Sunny Smith