



TRTA

Texas Retired Teachers Association
The Voice for All Public Education Retirees

TRTA District 4: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris Counties

August 2020 Volume 2 Issue 1



Wahkum too TRTA veshun 2020.

(Oops, let me take off my mask!)

By Mary Ann Dolezal, D4 President

Welcome to TRTA Vision 2020. July 1 kicked off the new TRTA year in more ways than ever expected due to COVID-19. Once the TRTA Board of Directors “voted to impose a hold on all TRTA affiliated in-person meetings across the state through the end of 2020” District 4 was officially off and zooming! Your District 4 officers and committee chairs have been practicing, scheduling, and hosting virtual meetings via Zoom. They are now contacting their respective local positions to introduce themselves. A list of the D4 Leadership Team is included later in this newsletter. Contact them with your questions.

District 4 goals include:

- Building our technology skills
- Creating more visibility via social media
- Increasing membership
- Encouraging members to vote
- Making meetings meaningful and fun

Six-Foot Hugs

July has been challenging, to say the least, but everyone has met this new “experience” with patience, kindness, a “can-do” attitude, and support; thank you. Special kudos to our past president, Dr. Mary Widmier, who has helped me immensely get things rolling. From virtual leadership team meetings to selecting winning tickets for our TRTF Basket Raffle to training our local treasurers to meeting with local presidents to Zoom trainings with everyone, we are well on our way to accomplishing our first goal. District 4 leads the way statewide in leadership, membership, and innovative meetings. We are “out of the box” thinkers; keep up the good work! What an honor to be working with each of you as we meet the challenges ahead.

Passing of the president’s gavel from past president, Dr. Mary Widmier, to Mary Ann Dolezal, current district president



Dates to Remember

- ★ **Fall Conference**
Tues. Sept. 29, 2020
ZOOM
- ★ **DAY AT THE CAPITOL**
April 7, 2021

Fall Networking Dates:

First Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. Local unit presidents invited with others. Details TBA

- ★ **August 5**
- ★ **Sept. 2**
- ★ **Oct. 7**
- ★ **Nov. 4**
- ★ **Dec 2**

Virtual Meetings via Zoom will replace in-person meeting for this year.

DISTRICT 4 LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020-2022

President	Mary Ann Dolezal Fort Bend Harris RE	madolezal@windstream.net
Immediate Past President	Dr. Mary Widmier Humble Area RTA	mary.widmier@yahoo.com
1st Vice President	Rosalind Haynes Houston (HART)	rozhaynes@sbcglobal.net
2nd Vice President	Karen Thornton Katy ARE	kbthornton@earthlink.net
Secretary	Diana Apsey Spring Branch ARSE	apseydiana@ymail.com
Treasurer	Glen Peterson Klein ARE	gpeter6026@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian	Charmaine Hines Northeast Harris County REA	CharmingHines65@gmail.com
Historian	Mary Lou Purello Humble (HARTA)	marylou0038@icloud.com
Legislative	Dr. Mary Widmier Humble Area RTA	mary.widmier@yahoo.com
Informative and Protective Services	Dorsey Reese, Jr. Katy ARE	dlr1906@netscape.net
Community Volunteer Service	Paula Raeke Brazoria County RTA	prraeke@gmail.com
Retirement Ed	Glenna Santo Houston Association of Retired Teachers	retirement.ed.forum@gmail.com
Healthy Living	Faye Moseley Houston-Harris RTA	fjm01@att.net
Foundation Liaison	Carla Meuth Fort Bend Harris RE	cgmeuth@sbcglobal.net
Member Benefits	John Bernzen Brazosport ARSP	john.bernzen@gmail.com
Technology Contact	Bonnie Melton Clear Creek ART	bhmelton61@gmail.com



ZOOM MEETING #1

On May 15, District 4 Leadership Team “gathered” together, via Zoom to welcome Mary Ann Dolezal as the incoming president and to thank Mary Widmier for her service. Big thank you to Mary for hosting this meeting.

The uncertainty of when we can meet in person has made these virtual meetings so very important. Marcy Cann suggested that we invest in the commercial version of Zoom, so that we can invite more members to participate at the same time and meet for a longer period of time.

There were 16 members who participated in this meeting. Mary Widmier thanked the members of the team and was pleased to announce that District 4 added 268 members. This was quite an accomplishment. Mary reminded us of some goals for next year:

- Build our technology skills
- Create a District 4 website, an addition to the TRTA website
- Encourage all to vote
- Increase membership
- Work to make meetings meaningful and FUN!

Mary Ann spoke of the upcoming meeting with Mary to ready the transition. She announced the new meeting site, Bellaire United Methodist Church. She said it would be easier as there will be no beforehand setup needed. She agreed with the need to get in touch with the local units presidents to assist with this new way of meeting. Everyone, at least for now, must get comfortable with the use of **Zoom** to hold meetings. We all need to be prepared to be flexible.



Mary Ann with the help of Rosalind Haynes, presented Mary with a thank you gift card, and a thank you Golden beach pail filled with “**Tons of Gold**” - Mary’s worth; **Mounds** for the time and energy devoted to District 4; thanks for the **Extra** mile Mary always ran, and the **Joy** of knowing and working with her.



TRTA UNIT PRESIDENTS MEET VIRTUALLY



Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape

Alvin Area	Brenda Teykl	Humble	Marian Mannix
Baytown Area	Jeanne Hines	Katy	Earlene Hopkins
Brazoria County	Beverly Wilson	Klein	Robert Hrcir
Brazosport I	John Bernzen	La Porte	Betty Thompson
Clear Creek	Deborah Elliott	Mainland	Rita Boykin
Crosby Area	Cheryl Stephens	North Harris County	Charlotte Wright
Cypress-Fairbanks	Sheila Wolf	Northeast Harris	Diane Chandler
Fort Bend County	Peter Rayome	Northeast Harris	Aurora Hurtado
Fort Bend-Harris	Cathie Ritchie	Pasadena	Jeanne Nelson
Galveston	Beverly Jackson-Brown	Pearland	Janet Emmons
Houston	Jane Sakely	Spring Branch	Frazer Dealy
Houston-Harris	Faye Moseley		

What I did during my Summer Vacation- the Covid-19 shut down



BASKET RAFFLE! AND THE WINNERS ARE:



Mary Widmier
Humble RTA



Stay'cation



Texas Treasures

Susan Alter, Klein RTA



Wine 'n Dine



Rita Boykin -Mainland RTA



Kitchen Collection



Denise Pineault, Pasadena RTA

Our Basket RaffleProject raised \$505! Congratulations to the winners!
All proceeds will be donated to the
Texas Retired Teachers Foundation.

District 4 Meeting Dates Vision 2020

The TRTA Board placed a hold on all TRTA affiliated in-person meetings across the state through the end of 2020 due to COVID-19. All District 4 meetings will be held virtually via Zoom through December 2020. Further information forthcoming for 2021.

Fall Networking Meetings 2020

First Wednesday of the month at 10 am via Zoom

August 5

Attendees: District 4 Officers and Committee Chairs, Local Unit Presidents

September 2

Attendees: District 4 Officers and Committee Chairs,
Local Unit Presidents, First VPs/Membership, Legislative Chairs

October 7

Attendees: District 4 Officers and Committee Chairs,
Local Unit Presidents, 2nd VPs/Book Project, Legislative Chairs

November 4

Attendees: District 4 Officers and Committee Chairs,
Local Unit Presidents, Foundation Liaisons

December 2

Attendees: District 4 Officers and Committee Chairs, Local Unit Presidents

Fall Conference

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Attendees: District 4 officers and Committee Chairs

Pre-Rally Social, 4-6 pm, April 6 – Hilton Austin Downtown

Day at the Capitol, April 7, 2021, Austin, TX

CHOOSE JOY.

I love this analogy!

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.



Why did you spill the coffee?

“Because someone bumped into me!!!”

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

“Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.”

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which **WILL** happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It’s easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

“So we have to ask ourselves...”*what’s in my cup?*”

When life gets tough, what spill over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words, and reactions?

Life provides the cup, **YOU** choose how to fill it.

Today let’s work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

(From Mary Ann who shared from a friend whose cup is full of goodness and inspiration.)

