

Klein Association of Retired Employees



KARE NEWSLETTER for November 2020

Save the Date!

Join us for our KARE Zoom meeting on November 18 at 10 a.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Jenny McGown, Superintendent of Klein ISD.

An update on KARE Technology: Jane McKetta

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an order from TRTA, **all KARE meetings for 2020 will be held online via Zoom.** If you are a member of *KARE*, you will receive an email with a ZOOM meeting invitation. Just click on the blue link when the meeting is scheduled to start, and you will be admitted to the meeting.

Technology: our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. If you do not receive a Zoom link by the day before, please email me at jmcketta@sbcglobal.net and I will send it to you.

Keeping Up with KARE

Send any questions and/or to update your email address to KAREMembership@Outlook.com.

Although this has membership in the title, it is a monitored KARE site and all questions will be passed on to the appropriate officer or committee chair. Is there something else you would like to see reported in the newsletter?

The newsletter is posted on our webpages with TRTA and Facebook. Our KARE webpage can be found on the TRTA website at: <https://localunits.org/klein/>

Our KARE Facebook page can be found by searching for KARE – Klein Association of Retired Employees. Be sure to Like us.

**Klein Association of Retired Employees
Tentative Events Schedule for 2020 – 2021
For KARE, TRTA and District IV**

- August 12:** KARE Board Zoom Meeting
- September 8:** KARE Board Zoom Meeting
September 9: Foundation Meeting
- September 16:** KARE Zoom Meeting – Installation of Officers
President - Bob Hrcir
Past President - Dale Robinson
1st Vice President (Membership) - Sandy Smith
2nd Vice President - (Programs) - Susan Alter
3rd Vice President (Trips) - Kathy Bell
Treasurer - Linda Carroll
Secretary - Mary Young
- September 29:** TRTA District IV Virtual Fall Conference
- October 21:** KARE Zoom Meeting – Candidates
Doug James – Klein ISD Board of Trustees President
Georgan Reitmeier – Klein ISD Board of Trustees Position 1
Dr. Jim Cain – Lone Star College Board of Trustees
- November 18:** KARE Zoom Meeting – Dr. Jenny McGown,
Superintendent of Klein ISD.
- December 11:** Trip to Old Town Spring
- December 16:**
- January 8:** Trip
- January 20:** KARE Meeting – Nomination of Officers
- February 17:** KARE Meeting
- March 17:** KARE Meeting
- April 7:** A Day at the Capital
- April 21:** KARE Meeting – Election of officers
- May 19:** KARE Brunch Meeting
Installation of Officers

Keep an eye on the events schedule each month for any changes or additions.
Trips will be added when the trip schedule is announced.

Joyce Clifton passed away on October 28. She was a long time member of KARE and a school nurse in KISD for many years. She was also a veteran having served as a Navy nurse during the Vietnam War. She retired after 10 years as a Lieutenant Commander.

November Meeting Information

Membership/First Vice President – Sandy Smith

District 4 recently had a meeting for 1st VP/Membership chairs. It has been a challenging year recruiting new members to the local units, due to COVID and the inability to have in person meetings. Another barrier is getting information to employees who may be considering retirement, as all schools and offices are locked down to outsiders. We have been working diligently to get renewals in and 123 have renewed their KARE memberships. I want to express my gratitude to all of you who have taken the time to renew. Due to privacy laws, districts cannot give contact information on those employees who have retired or are retiring. Therefore, I would encourage any of you who have friends or colleagues who are retired or thinking of retiring, to pass along information about KARE and encourage them to join. If they have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Our email address is KAREmembership@outlook.com. I check this email address each day. You will find a membership form attached to this newsletter.

Programs/Second Vice President – Susan Altar

Speaker at November meeting: Dr. Jenny McGown – Superintendent of Klein ISD.

Trips/Third Vice President – Kathy Bell

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST SOCIAL GATHERING OF 2020 AND GET IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

The bus will leave Barbra Bush Library at 9:45 on December 11th. and return about 3:00. We can transport 13 people on the bus, masks required. Please sign up with Kathy Bell at kbell1718@sbcglobal.net and indicate if you plan to go by bus or meet us there. I will have maps of stores and restaurants for all and will tell you the meeting place when you sign up.

KARE Trips on Precinct 4 Buses by Third Vice President, Kathy Bell

Due to precautions related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), bus reservations are tentative and may be curtailed, postponed, or canceled. Currently, the dates for bus trips are December 11, 2020 and January 8, 2021. If you have any trip ideas for

January, send those to KAREmembership@outlook.com or kbell1718@sbcglobal.net

Minutes from October meeting – Mary Young, Secretary

KARE October 24, 2020

Meeting called to order 10:00 a.m.

Susan Alter introduced candidates:

Georgann Reitmeier running for Klein ISD Board of Trustees Position 1. She was a Klein volunteer, 2nd grade teacher, former director of Keep Pace, and KISD board member for years. She mentioned the Gulf Coast Association and their policies. Doug James, currently president of the Klein ISD Board of Trustees, is running for Klein ISD Board of Directors. He spoke of his qualifications. Noted that he and Ms. Reitmeier are Master Trustees of Klein Board of Education. Dr. Jim Cain, running for District 9 of the Lone Star College Board of Trustees, spoke about his qualifications and (he has been associated with Klein ISD for 35 years).

Minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Linda Carroll, KARE treasurer, reported a balance of \$5831.30. A check for \$750 was received from District 4. \$900 in contributions was donated to the Houston Food Bank in memory of Robert Laughlin, past KARE president.

Sandy Smith reported KARE has 123 members. She encouraged members to advise her of prospective members.

Susan Alter reported she is working on future programs.

Kathy Bell encouraged everyone to download the TRTA app. The TRTF app has information on grants and scholarships, as well as the new program.

There will be a trip December 11 to Old Town Spring. Details to be announced.

Linda Carroll encouraged members to report their volunteer hours back to her by December 31.

Glen Peterson encouraged all to vote in the November 3 election.

Dora Williams noted that October is Breast Cancer awareness month. There will be information on the Walk Across America November 5 to December 31 in the next newsletter. She encouraged members to form teams of 8.

Contact Dora if you know of anyone who needs cheering up. She is unaware of any members who have had the Covid-19. She encouraged all members to be active; “Don’t be a couch potato, be a fruit fly”.

Wayland Kidd for Dagmar: Reported on Information and Protective Services; check out recent scams on consumer.FTC.gov. i.e. Beware of scams, like paying with gift cards and many others. Be sure to check your bank statements for possible hacking.

Wayland Kidd encouraged members to send him pictures and notes about member activities during the pandemic.

Nadine is looking into a Zoom meeting on future retirement information.

Eva Gregg reported nothing new for Hospitality.

Janet Flynn welcomes books for the children’s book project. If you have a large number of books, she will pick them up. Currently she has over 300 books for donation.

No new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:22.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Young, KARE secretary.

KARE Financial Report for October 2020 – Linda Carroll, Treasurer

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Balance 30 September | | | \$ 5,831.30 |
| 26 Oct | TRTA Draft | -140.00 | 5,691.30 |
| 29 Oct | Dues Deposit | +135.00 | 5,826.30 Balance Oct 31 |

Community Volunteer Services – Linda Carroll Interim Chair

The chair position for Community Volunteer Services is open. Let Bob Hrcir know if you would like to apply.

| | |
|--|--|
| Volunteer Hours Record for 2020 | Name: _____ |
| January _____ | July _____ |
| February _____ | August _____ |
| March _____ | September _____ |
| April _____ | October _____ |
| May _____ | November _____ |
| June _____ | December _____ Total _____ |

ALWAYS SHARE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS WITH OTHER MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERING GUIDELINES

Volunteer hours may be counted for any service provided without pay, with a maximum of 12 hours a day. Hours spent doing volunteer work include travel and prep time. Record volunteer hours regularly (daily if possible). A date book or calendar is useful.

RESOURCES

TRTA website - www.trta.org

TRTA State CVS Committee - trta.org/community-volunteer-service-committee

Facebook - TRTA Community Volunteer Services

www.facebook.com/CVSCommittee

TRTA Facebook - www.facebook.com/TexasRetiredTeachers

The Voice - trta.org/the-voice

The Inside Line - trta.org/inside-line-blog

Texas Retired Teacher Foundation NEWS by Kathy Bell

TRTF Introduces New Tutor Initiative Program in 2020!

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) is launching a new endeavor that benefits Texas public education students, teachers, and retirees alike. TRTF's mission has been to help educators of the past, present and future through grants and scholarships. Now, we want to reach every Texas child! TRTF's dream and goal is to provide access to reduced cost tutoring services to the 5.9 million public

school students in Texas. Many students, teachers, and retirees are struggling due to the abrupt changes made to our public education system because of the Covid-19 pandemic. These circumstances prompted TRTF to launch a program that connects schools and parents to retirees across the state who will tutor students in an online setting on an hourly basis. TRTF's tutoring service will employ retired and certified Texas public school teachers who have the experience, time, and dependability needed to engage successfully with students of all ages and educational needs. Retirees can earn between \$30-\$40 per hour without TRS penalty concerns. Children will receive the educational support they need as they adapt to virtual learning environments that are quickly becoming the primary mode of education for most Texas families. Their parents will have access to reduced cost, reliable tutoring services that focus on empowering the student to succeed, not on profits! Public school teachers who are already overloaded with the abrupt changes required for our education system will have a valuable and trusted resource for their students when additional help is needed outside of their daily classroom setting. Our program will help bolster students' learning and support public school teachers, not take away from our much-needed public education system. Please consider joining our program as a tutor by contacting us at 1.800.880.1650 or help@trtf.org.

Informative and Protective Services from Dagmar Kidd

8 Tips to Scam-Proof Your Life Amid COVID-19

Crooks capitalizing on the crisis want your cash and personal data

by Katherine Skiba, [AARP](#), October 7, 2020 |

Even a pandemic isn't enough to deter scammers from going after your money and identity. Here are eight tips from fraud experts to protect you during the coronavirus outbreak.

1. Be extremely careful when shopping online.

Before you place a digital order with an unfamiliar store, [check out the company](#) or product online first, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) urges.

Complaints about online shopping made to the consumer-protection agency rank first among the nearly 115,000 coronavirus-related fraud reports this year, says the FTC's Colleen Tressler.

Online shopping complaints skyrocketed in April and May, when more than half the people complaining said they never got what they ordered. Early on, shady

sellers set up websites offering hard-to-find products such as masks, sanitizer, toilet paper, thermometers, and gloves. Sellers blamed the pandemic for shipping delays, then stopped responding to consumers, who in some cases were sent counterfeit or defective items or products not in the size ordered.

2. Be wary of strange texts, calls and emails.

Scammers reach out any way they can, including through social media. Some bad actors even show up at your door.

The number of complaints about violations of the [National Do Not Call Registry](#) “are starting to pick up again after months of decline,” Tressler says. “As the scammers take to the phones again, you can expect to see an uptick in popular phone scams.”

3. Be sure your computer's antivirus and anti-malware software is up to date.

[Computer tech-support scams](#) are “ever popular,” Tressler says. Con artists try to convince you that you have a virus or other serious problem affecting your computer; just keep in mind that “you don't need to fix” a problem that doesn't exist, she says. Use extreme caution when payment is sought through gift, prepaid or reload cards, [wire transfers](#) or money-transfer apps.

4. Be aware: Impostors wear many hats.

They pose as representatives of government agencies: [Social Security](#), the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#), the Internal Revenue Service, the Census Bureau and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, to name a few. Or they may masquerade as a family member in need of quick cash for an emergency. Or as a [would-be romantic interest](#) who chats with you several times a day.

“Pretending to be [from] the government may be scammers’ favorite ruse,” Tressler says. “And whatever the pitch, they all have one thing in common: to get your money and your personal information.”

5. Be sure to turn down pitches for quack COVID-19 cures and treatments.

The FTC has sent nearly 300 warning letters to companies [making false claims](#) about products that supposedly will prevent or combat COVID-19.

Here's [the list](#).

“If there's a medical breakthrough, you're not going to hear about it for the first time from an ad or a sales pitch,” according to Tressler, who said that the overwhelming majority of firms comply after receiving warnings.

6. Be careful if you hear from a contact tracer.

Don't pay one. Don't give out your Social Security number or financial information. Don't share your immigration status. And don't click on links or download anything sent by a [supposed contact tracer](#).

Check with your [state health department](#) to see if there is a way to make sure the person who is contacting you about possible exposure to someone with COVID-19 is authentic. Otherwise, hang up, close the door, and don't respond to, click on or download anything in an email or text. Then report the incident to your state and tell [the FTC](#) about it at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

7. Be firm about not giving to a charity that seeks a contribution in cash, a wire transfer or via gift cards.

"Those are sure signs of a scam," Tressler says. Additionally, you may research charities free of charge through the nonprofit [Charity Navigator](#).

8. Be vigilant about protecting your credit.

The three national credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, are offering free, weekly [credit reports](#) until April 2021, says Lisa Weintraub Schifferle, with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office for Older Americans.

Be sure to dispute any inaccuracies that show up.

AARP's Fraud Watch Network can help you spot and avoid scams. Sign up for free [Watchdog Alerts](#), review our [scam-tracking map](#), or call our toll-free [fraud helpline](#) at 877-908-3360 if you or a loved one suspect you've been a victim.

Historian Report by Wayland Kidd

Two K.A.R.E. slides were recently submitted to the District IV Historian, describing activities and innovations we undertake to keep our members informed, on a monthly basis, during the continuing pandemic.

Klein Association of Retired Educators

Treasurer Linda Carroll graciously volunteered to revamp and edit our monthly unit Newsletter for the new year. The October publication provided 18 pages of useful information compiled by the K.A.R.E. board to apprise our virtual membership of current events and disseminate reports for the October ZOOM meeting.

KARE NEWSLETTER for October 2020



- Save the Date!
 - An update on KARE Technology
 - Keeping Up with KARE
 - Tentative Events Schedule
 - Voter Information
 - How to Vote by Mail in Texas
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 - Membership by 1st Vice President
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 - Minutes for September meeting
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 - KARE Trips by 3rd Vice President
 - TRIF's New Tutor Initiative
 - Informative/Protective Services
 - Historian Report
 - Children's Book Project
 - KARE BOOK CLUB
 - Healthy Living
 - Walk Across Texas! Adult
- Membership Sign-Up Form included

Klein Association of Retired Educators

Healthy Living Chair D. Williams organized an energetic team known as the KARE KRUISERS to meet and even exceed the challenge of 842 miles over the next 8 weeks, as part of the WALK ACROSS TEXAS-ADULT physical activity awareness program.



Our [*kareshare2*](#) link is available for those of us who wish to depict how our unit is remaining active and involved. If you have ideas and wish to share, I can do the illustrations (to the best of my ability) and make slides for you. Ideas can also be submitted without giving identities or sources. Our historical reporting can simply be identified under the heading: ***K.A.R.E. Unit Members Activities***.

To submit ideas: kareshare.xix@gmail.com

And as always:

[Original Entire Scrapbook](https://tinyurl.com/kareshare) <https://tinyurl.com/kareshare>

[Editable Members' Pages](https://tinyurl.com/kareshare2) <https://tinyurl.com/kareshare2>

Children's Book Project: Janet Flynn, Chair

We are having a great response to our Children's Book Project this year.

If you have a large number of books that need to be picked up, please contact Janet Flynn at jkmf@postpro.net

KARE BOOK CLUB by Kathy Peterson

KARE members, I will not be able to head up the book club group. Hoping someone else can do so. **Let Bob Hrcir know if you would like to apply.**

We had hoped to try a ZOOM meeting format for Nov. 17, at 10:00 am. If you think you might be willing to try, Jane McKetta will help you with the details.

Healthy Living by Dora Williams

Keep Moving!

Walk Across Texas! Adult - is an eight-week program designed to help Texans establish the habit of physical activity. Each adult team may include up to 8 team members, all working together to reach the 832-mile goal to make their way across the state of Texas.

MEMBERSHIP/DIRECTORY FORM
KLEIN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES
Local Unit of the TEXAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt#: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Birthdate [mo/day] _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

I worked in [school(s)/district(s)] _____

Department(s) worked in _____

Retired employees from districts other than Klein are welcome to join KARE.

Who recommended KARE to you? _____

Do you know someone who should be a member of KARE? _____

I would be interested in serving on the following committee(s):

KAREMembership@Outlook.com

- | | |
|---|--|
| _____ Membership Sandra Smith Chair | _____ Book Club Kathy Peterson; Interim chair |
| _____ Programs Susan Alter Chair | _____ Children's Books Janet Flynn Chair |
| _____ KARE Trips Kathy Bell Chair | _____ Retirement Education Nadine Krebs Chair |
| _____ TRTA Foundation Kathy Bell Chair | _____ Healthy Living Dora Williams Chair |
| _____ Legislative Glen Peterson Chair | _____ Sunshine Dora Williams Chair |
| _____ Hospitality Eva Grigg Chair | _____ Social Media Jane McKetta Chair |
| _____ Community Services Linda Carroll Interim Chair | _____ Member Benefits Chair needed |
| _____ Historian Wayland Kidd Chair | _____ Information & Protective Services Dagmar Kidd Chair |

Return the form and a check payable to KARE to:

Linda Carroll, Treasurer
18206 Navajo Trail Drive
Spring, TX 77388-9097

KARE will take care of submitting your dues to TRTA, if you are not already in a program that pays them. Dues for both: \$45 (KARE \$10; TRTA \$35) If you are not sure how you pay your TRTA dues, check with Linda.