



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, 2020.....ZOOM @ 10 AM
- October 19, 2020ZOOM @ 10 AM
- December 7, 2020.....ZOOM @ 10 AM
- ZOOM or ISC CENTER**
- February 15, 2021ZOOM @ 10 AM
- April 19, 2021TBA
- May 17, 2021TBA

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



**The Voice of all Public
Education Retirees**

MUSINGS FROM PRESIDENT MARIAN



HARTA Members,

Hello and hope that you all are doing well. It is imperative to eat healthy meals, exercise, mask-up, and to social distance. It will help you to stay well and safe!

Our next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for February 15th, Monday, 10:00 AM. Grab your morning coffee and join us. We have a talented group in HARTA putting in their time working for you. ZOOM is the best option we have in lieu of attending a meeting in person.

This biennium is moving along quickly and I hope that you are doing your best to stay informed about TRTA and priorities. Please note that Tim Lee sends out the news INSIDE LINE directly to your home, it updates you about what is happening at the Capital regarding legislative news. If you are not receiving it, be sure to contact TRTA.

Representative Dan Huberty supports HARTA and we can always count on him to keep us in mind when addressing his constituents. Also, we are fortunate to have Dr. Mary Widmier as a HARTA member; she works diligently with many other Units and also visits Austin to personally contact our legislators promoting important issues regarding retired educators.

Many thanks to those mentioned above and to HARTA members for their devoted work supporting retired educators and our community projects.

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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Jane Vyonne (Vy)	Marvin Trusdale
3	Edith Vivian	Flagg Stark
4	Lois Terrye	Cooper Enderle
5	Peter * Patricia (Patty)	Fisher Murphy
7	Carol K	Smith
8	Karen	Seay
11	Carl	Braden
12	Donna Nancy	Clowers Penola
15	Betsy	Ruckman
16	Jean-Pierre * Greg Allan Sharon Linda	Enguehard Joseph Kingsbury Meurer Robertson
17	Phyllis	Smith
19	Kathy	Joseph
23	Darlene	Schuessler
24	Janet	Quinn
25	Regina	Eakin
26	Jennifer Kaye	Miller Reifschneider

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4	Myra Susan M	Bruns Brown
6	Diane	West
7	Irene (Fairle)	Rickard
9	Carolyn	Clapp
14	Teddy	Howell
15	Sharon	Finley
16	Thomasene	Christman
17	Gladys	Santiago
18	Delores	Barfield
19	Herbert E (Spike)	Harlan
20	Shirley	Astwood
21	Vivian	Alford
25	Patricia (Patsy)	Spitzmiller
27	Judy	Cook
29	Carolyn (Terry) Alice	Payne Richardson
30	Susan	Collins
31	Mary Lou Dottie	Purello Willner

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Dr. Laura Wilson was left off the December birthday list. We hope she had a very happy day on December 31. Happy Belated Birthday, Laura.



FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

- Cathy Sheppard

FEBRUARY 15 ZOOM

Our speaker for February will be Dr. Kelli Moulton, former Superintendent of Galveston ISD where her focus was on building a world-class district. Dr. Moulton has recently joined the staff of RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS, a top-notch organization which is influential in the public education community. It is the brainchild of Charles Butt of HEB, Bill Ratliff, Mike Moses and many other pro-public education business groups and education leaders.

The mission of RAISE YOUR HAND TEXAS is improving public education policy and practice. RYHT invests millions every year both through this group and HEB's foundation in an effort to accomplish their mission at the legislative level as well as at the local school level. Since our goals are so closely aligned, we hope to learn ways in which TRTA can cooperate in achieving that mission.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

- Brenda Pearson

We had a successful distribution of the 2020-2021 HARTA directories on Tuesday, January 21, at La Madeleine in Kingwood. Almost 40 members drove up with blinking lights on. President Marian Mannix met them at their cars and exchanged a directory for a dollar. Some members walked up to our table for a directory and a chat. It was a very pleasant event.

If you want a directory now, you will need to order one. Please send an email or text to Brenda Pearson by noon on Friday, February 26, requesting a copy. There will be a second printing and distribution. These directories can be mailed to you for an additional \$1.60, the cost of the stamps.

Our current dues year ends on June 30 and members may start to renew after March 1. We are hoping for another drive-by event: you may drop off dues at a designated location, or mail them in. More details will follow about this.



HEALTHY LIVING

- Linda Rhodes

WALK ACROSS TEXAS

We had twenty-three participants in the Walk across Texas challenge. Each team exceeded the 825 miles across Texas in eight weeks. Congratulations to the following people: Carolyn Mashburn, Marjo Stach, Cathy Reading, Mary Lou Purrello, Marian Mannix, Jan Resell, Dawn Meador, Bev Germann, Gayle Noll, Latreca Black, Patty Murphy, Arlane Sponaugle, Linda Spiro, Joni McEvoy, Angela Shepherd, Faith Hiller, Carolyn Monroe, Bill Beard, Kathy Spirakes, Tina Smith, and team captains Fran Simister, Pat Kahak, and Linda Rhodes.

The next WAT begins February 28 and ends April 24. Please let me know if you are interested in participating or if you would like more information. Thanks.

Crockpot Quinoa Tacos submitted by Patty Murphy

Ingredients: 1 cup quinoa

1/2 cup low-sodium vegetable broth

1 can no-salt added black beans

1 can no-salt added corn

1 can no-salt added diced tomatoes

1 jar (12-16 oz.) salsa

1 packet low sodium taco seasoning

Corn tortillas

Cilantro (optional), hot sauce, lime

1. Mix quinoa, veggie broth, beans, corn, tomatoes, salsa in a crockpot. Do not drain cans.

2. Add spice packet

3. Cook on high for three hours.

4. Serve in corn tortillas with your favorite toppings.

Note - also a good topper for sweet potatoes, or you could add cooked lean ground beef or turkey to the crockpot.

Tuesday Morning Walking Group:

Every Tuesday morning (weather permitting) we meet at the Society of St. Stephen's parking lot located at the corner of Woodland Hills Dr. and Crystal Springs. We meet about 8:55 to walk at 9:00. You can walk at your own pace and can turn around at any time. Our goal is 3.1 miles. Come join us.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SERVICES (CVS)

-Margaret Fahrenthold

LET'S START ANEW

Each year members are asked to record their volunteer hours. Those hours are collected from January to December and are submitted to the state office in February.

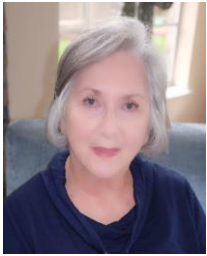
Let's start again jotting down the hours you volunteer and send them to margaret45@suddenlink.net. This past year HARTA members have done so many interesting things despite the pandemic! Here are some examples:

- *working the phone banks for voting
- *monitoring grandchildren's online schooling
- *reading online with military children who are homeschooled
- *working Kingwood Garden Club "Reforest the Forest" setup and sale
- *caring for someone with no family after surgery.

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.



Tuesday Morning Walking Group



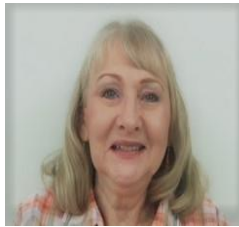
LEGISLATIVE NEWS

- Carolyn Monroe

First, I want to say that I am encouraged to learn that there is good news of proposed funding in the state budget to meet the promises made in the last legislative session to increase funds for TRS. I hope you have read Tim Lee's latest *Inside Line*.

Since our meetings with Legislators and their staff members are being held on Zoom, I was concerned that we might not make the same impression as in face-to-face meetings. We have just had our first meeting with Senator Creighton's staff and I found them engaged, wanted to learn what our concerns were, and actually spent 50 minutes talking with us.

TRTA staff and volunteers deserve a lot of credit for what was accomplished in the 86th Legislative Session. There is no way to count the number of doors that were knocked on, how many letters were written, emails sent and phone calls made to keep the TRS pension fund toward being actuarially sound – until that happens, there will not be a pension increase for TRS retirees.



RETIREMENT EDUCATION

- Pat Kahak

As a member of the District 4 Retirement Committee, this year we are focusing on promoting virtual events, creation of written and video materials and distribution of materials. Two VIRTUAL TRS Retirement Education Seminars for District 4 will take place on **March 27, 2021, and April 24, 2021**. Both are on a Saturday and will be held **10:00 a.m. to Noon** via ZOOM.

A flyer with registration information will be sent out soon to HARTA members and to our area school districts so potential retirees can be notified.



FOUNDATION NEWS!

- Glenda Laney

Can you spare \$10?

The goal is to raise \$100,000 to continue the work of the Foundation.

Over the years (since 2017) TRTF has awarded more than \$93,750 in beginning teacher scholarships. In 2020-21 TRTF will provide grants for 40 classroom assistance needs. Over the years (since 2010) TRTF has provided over \$189,000 to help retired educators through "A Helping Hand."

After Hurricane Harvey in 2017, TRTF received and distributed more than \$160,000 to more than 450 retired and active educators.

Yes, there are continuing needs for beginning, active, and retired educators. If you want to help with these altruistic activities, send your \$10 (tax deductible) contribution to: Texas Retired Teachers Foundation, 313 E. 12th Street, Ste. 220, Austin, TX 78701-1957. Know that it will be put to good use.

From The Treasurer's Corner:
Membership dues for the year 2021-2022 start March 1, 2021. Some dues have been received already and are being held until March. Thank you for your early payment. Dues are the same – TRTA \$35, HARTA \$5 for a total of \$40.
So far, we have collected \$75 from the sale of directories. Please come by the ISC March 15 and buy yours if you have not already done so, price is \$1. HARTA has \$120 for donations to our "Holiday Fund" for the coming year. We have already received a total \$280 for the 2021 FUND. We received a very nice thank you letter from Society of St. Stephens for our \$550 donation at Christmas. We also donated another \$550 to HAAM. Thank you ALL for your very generous donations!
The "Pokeno Friends" donated a \$50 scholarship in the name of Becky Baker, who recently passed away.
Total Checking and Savings combine = \$22,800.
Respectfully,
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.



MEMBER BENEFITS

- Beckye Hendricks



INFORMATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES - Virginia Cowen

It is important to protect the retirement income, nest egg, and quality of life you have worked so hard for. To help protect you and your family’s future, your Texas Retired Teachers Association is partnered with Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) and endorsed for you these benefits. Your benefits are administered exclusively by AMBA Advisors. These benefits are available to both active and retired school employees and their families. A few of these outstanding benefits are:

- Home Health Care
- Long Term Care
- Cancer, Heart Attack, and Stroke Policy
- Medicare Supplement
- Ground and Air Ambulance Plan
- Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance
- Tax Deferred Annuity
- Policy/Benefits Review

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

ERIC HUNT – DISTRICT MANAGER

Direct phone and text: 281.636.9321

Email: eric.hunt@amba.info



5 Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccine Scams

Here are five key points that state and federal officials want the public to understand.

1. Initially, the vaccine will be available in limited quantities, so people should turn to trusted resources—their doctor or local health department—for guidance.
2. People should not buy any kind of coronavirus vaccine or treatment on the internet or from an online pharmacy.
3. Doses of vaccine that were purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be provided to patients at no cost. Providers though, may charge an administration fee reimbursed by private and public insurance companies. There's also a means of reimbursement for uninsured patients.
4. Consumers should not respond to any solicitation about the vaccine. “Fraudsters are using telemarketing calls, text messages, social media platforms and door-to-door visits to perpetrate COVID-19 related scams.” Health and Human services officials said in a Dec. 3rd fraud advisory.
5. People should not give cash or any other form of payment to suspicious callers, nor should they divulge personal, medical, or financial information, which criminals can use to fraudulently bill federal health care programs and to commit medical identity theft. There will be strict protocols for the order in which certain groups of people, such as nursing home residents and health care workers, will inoculated. Watch for announcements from federal and state governments. For most information, consult online resources like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention web pages and the FDA’s vaccine web pages.

Condolences to Jan:

Jan Resell's 99 year old mother passed away recently and was buried on January 4, 2021. Jan spent some time in North Dakota with her sisters but is back home in Atascocita now. Condolences may be sent to Jan at 5927 Gnarled Oaks Court, Humble 77346 or to janresell430@hotmail.com



TRIPS AND TOURS

- Carolyn Mashburn

All trips sponsored by Carolyn Mashburn.

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

February 25 (Thursday) Lunch at Rainbow Lodge and a trip to MFAH's new Kinder Institute at MFAH.

KINDER FOUNDATION

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Precinct 4 buses leave the ISC building on Magnolia Cove at noon. Our first stop is the fabulous Rainbow Lodge where lunch can be served on their scenic, outdoor heated patio or in their gorgeous restaurant. We will order from the lunch menu and take time for a photo op as well as delicious food.

After lunch we will visit the just-opened Kinder building at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston (free on Thursdays) for a tour of the outdoor sculpture garden, the interactive lighted tunnels connecting the buildings, and the third-floor exhibit with a free audio tour on your phone. As sunset approaches, we will pause to enjoy the light tubes which comprise the building before we return to Kingwood. Cost is \$5 + lunch on your own.

Trip sponsored by Carolyn Mashburn, carolynmashburn44@gmail.com please call 281-460-8255, text or email to register for this trip.

We can take up to 24 people, safely social distanced on two 36-passenger buses furnished by Precinct 4. Masks required and passengers limited to 12 per bus.



BROOKWOOD TOUR

Nine HARTA members traveled to the Brookwood Community where we had an orientation in the church, toured the campus by bus, had a delicious lunch, and shopped the gift shop and plant store. Great fun, great finds, great fellowship, and a great deal to learn about an amazing residential facility for adults with disabilities. Do you know every resident has a job and a bicycle to ride round the complex?



PICNIC IN THE PARK

Friday picnics in the park continue when the weather is dry. Please join us for socially distanced, safe, fellowship and fun. Bring your chair, lunch, drink, mask and sense of adventure,



Celebrating Bill Beard's 90th Birthday!



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