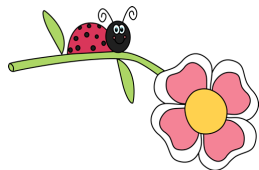


RICHARDSON RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

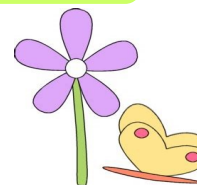
An Affiliate of the Texas Retired Teachers Association

Volume 31, Issue 6

April, 2021



FROM THE PRESIDENT— *Standing Together. . . Standing Tall!*



The Story from Cori: Spring has sprung! We are finally experiencing some lovely weather and have been blessed with soaking rains that brought green back to our surroundings. COVID-19 vaccines are rapidly being given, and it seems like our outlooks are improving along with the weather! I hope each of you is enjoying a little SAFE contact with relatives and friends.

RRSP members had a chance to have some virtual and socially distanced contact with each other on March 18 & 19, as we had our general meeting, Meet the RISD Candidates session, and St. Patrick's Chocolate or NOT Foundation FUNdraiser. Legislative Chair **Jack Noteware** set up a fantastic RISD School Board Candidates introductory hour, and it was so interesting! Each candidate had three minutes to talk about themselves and why they were running for office. Many worthy people are running in this May 1st election. There is an RISD Bond on the ballot as well that you can get information on here - <https://web.risd.org/bond2021/>. Be sure to get informed and VOTE!

Thanks to 3rd VP Programs Co-Chairs **Kathy Carter** and **Trish Bittle**, our general meeting was also wonderful, as we listened and learned all about the Richardson Public Library. I know that many of us thought we already knew how great our library is, but we were pleasantly AWED by the presentation of Keri Samples and the incredible offerings we have! Take advantage of these by investigating <https://www.cor.net/departments/public-library>

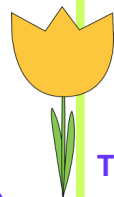
Finally, on **Friday RRSP Foundation Chair Laura Snow** and **President-Elect Kathy Grogan** planned and held a hugely successful FUNdraiser for TRTF. The weather was perfect, and the items donated were fabulous! Some baked, some not, with lots of fun items to choose from. Some people donated "absentee," and others joined us at the Pearce drive-through. The lucky winners of the two door prizes (\$25 Target Gift Cards) were **Trish Bittle** and **Jack Noteware**. Altogether over \$2100 was raised for the TRT Foundation! **THANKS to all of you who donated money, goods, and/or time! Our event "staff" were great – Laura and Kathy, plus Lisa and Robert Grinsfelder, Paula and Rick Rhodes, Elaine Simmons, Jan Casner, Brenda Duckett, and Liz Zsohar!**

Reminders – TRTA Legislative Events:

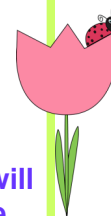
- **ZOOM to the Capitol, April 5-8.** Register at www.trta.org
- **Red Letter Campaign** – Send in yours if you haven't already! See Tim Lee's email on March 25th.
- **RSVP for the RRSP April ZOOM Meeting** – Nancy Nevarez from Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) will present on this vitally important volunteer work.

I wish each of you a blessed Easter, Passover, or other spring holiday with your family and friends!

Cori Pratt, RRSP President



April ZOOM Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM
Program Speaker: Nancy Nevarez Volunteer Administrative Recruitment
Coordinator at Dallas CASA
To make a reservation, email coripratt57@yahoo.com or call (469)231-7229.
The ZOOM meeting link will be sent out to all who make a reservation. This link will give you access to the meeting via your computer, laptop, iPad, or smart phone.



April Program—Dallas Casa Information



Nancy Nevarez from Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) will be visiting to share ways on how volunteers can help abused and neglected children in our communities.

Kathy Carter and **Trish Bittle**, 3rd VP Program Co-Chairs

Optimism Month

Although March is Optimism Month, any month can be an opportunity to build your tendency toward grounded optimism, and reap the many benefits that come from this. Optimism is associated with many benefits in life, including increased physical and emotional health, less stress, happiness and longevity.

Steps to approaching life with more optimism.

- Analyze your thoughts and give yourself credit. Think of the strengths that you possess.
- Think of how your strengths can bring about good things and situations.
- Minimize the negative. Think of the outside circumstances that contributed to your negativism (failures). How can you make the circumstances better. Optimism is about looking at the bright side. Think "This too shall pass" and work toward that end.
- The key is to focus on the positive and don't let negative events kill your self- confidence.
- **Remember:** Tomorrow is another day. You'll have endless opportunities to do better in the future.



Looking toward a positive future is so important in the current situations in many of our lives – the pandemic and a better future for our country.

On another subject: It seems that 2021 is off to a "different " start, and TRTA is working for you in many ways. The **Inside Line** gives us links to the Texas Department of Insurance website for tips about the winter storm. There are tips for filing claims to avoid fraud. If you have a Medical Advantage plan with United Healthcare, I hope you received a copy of the Renew magazine. It is full of interesting and informative articles for everyone.

Report on Walk Across Texas.

WAT was an eight week statewide program to encourage walking (movement). The program began on January 25 and ended March 21. RRSP had a team of 8 walkers lead by **Liz Zsohar**. Other members of the team included **Cori Pratt, Don Pratt, Mary Ann Schwab, Tobi Bray, Susan Bach, Shirley Zsohar and Kim Caston**. Each person logged in their own progress. The focus was to virtually walk the 882 miles from Pampa in the Panhandle down to Brownsville in South Texas. The team ended up posting 1,556.25 miles placing #12 of 42 statewide teams. **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TEAM!**

Liz Zsohar
Health and Protective Services Chair



April Legislative Update

ALL RRSP members should now have participated in the TRTA **RED LETTER CAMPAIGN** by writing your story and returning the red envelopes to your representative and senator. If you have not done so, you must not want a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to your TRS pension. There are three bills submitted which propose a COLA for retirees. The three are SB2092, HB3206 and HB3214. Members should also CALL/and OR email their representative and senator asking them to show their support for retirees by co-sponsoring these three bills.

A ZOOM meeting is scheduled with Sen. Nathan Johnson, April 6, 4 PM. If you are his constituent please participate in this meeting. Below is the ZOOM link:

TRTA District 10 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

- Topic: Senator Nathan Johnson Legislative Zoom Meeting
- Time: Apr 6, 2021 04:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81943407534?pwd=QTBSNXhpcTB4MjRhN0FlaXZROVhkZz09>



Remember to RSVP to participate in the TRTA Virtual Days at the Capital, April 5-8. Directions are in **THE VOICE**, page 5.

Jack Noteware, Legislative Chair

Retirement Education Seminar

As with everything else this year, our Retirement Education seminar is very different. All of the TRS speakers are presenting virtually so the seminars have been Zoom events. Our February 20 seminar was rescheduled for March 27 due to the severe weather. District 10 has had three well attended seminars which **Cori Pratt**, the District 10 Retirement Education Chair, has hosted. She explains the difference between TRS and TRTA and what an invaluable organization TRTA is for both active and retired teachers and then introduces the TRS presenter. Attendees have been very pleased with the format as they can attend in the comfort of their homes, have a digital copy of the materials for review, and have a choice of dates to attend. TRTA has handled all of the registration and is providing the units with contact information of registrants so that we may follow up with invitations to join us.

These events are open to employees across the state, and as of this writing, there are 339 registered for our March 27 seminar. This comment from the TRTA Retirement Education Committee summarizes the success of the programs: "Most actives prefer our virtual events due to the quality of the video program, ability to see and to hear the presenters and the questions asked plus not traveling to a location. TRTA has become a presence in their lives."

Jan Casner, Retirement Education Chair



Special Interest Article

SOLAR PANELS—TEACHER RAISES

At our March ZOOM meeting, member **Jane McCurdy** alerted us to this creative way one school district in Arkansas found to give their teachers raises! Read about it here:

<https://futurism.com/the-byte/solar-panels-save-teachers-raise>

RTRF Scholarships

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, scholarship applications from the Retired Teachers of Richardson Foundation have been sent to all four high school College and Career counselors and also to the Teaching Intern Program teachers. Applications are due back to **Lisa Grinsfelder** by April 2, 2021. Then the Scholarship Committee will meet and select the recipients of two \$4,000 scholarships.

We look forward to receiving awesome applications as we have in the past. Over the last eight years we have given over \$50,000 to deserving seniors planning to major in education. Any questions, please contact Lisa Grinsfelder.

Lisa Grinsfelder, RTRF Scholarship Chair
rmgrins@aol.com



Member Benefits

Treasurer's Note

February 2021

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning February Balance | \$ 8,971.44** |
| Deposits (Membership) | 2,031.00 |
| Interest | 3.52 |
| Total | 11,005.96 |
| Disbursements | - 819.00 |
| February Ending Balance | \$10,186.52 |

Elaine Simmons, Treasurer
8604 Gladwood Lane
Dallas, TX 75243-6408
elaine23@swbell.net
214-356-0355



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reserve an appointment, call 832-437-6724
Or

<https://www.txmobileimaging.com/services>



Barbara Murphy, Member Benefits Chair

New Officers Elected

The RRSP Nominating Committee is proud to announce the election of the new officers for the 2021-2023 biennium: **Kathy Grogan, President; Carole Kilduff and Cori Pratt, Co-1st Vice Presidents – Membership; Carla Bremer, 2nd Vice President – Public Relations; Susan Gregory, 2nd Vice President, Book Project; and Jeannette Winkelmann, Secretary.** Thank you to these ladies for stepping forward to fill these important positions.

I would also like to thank the following people for their help or service on the Committee: **Billie Askew, Kathy Grogan, Nancy Rohm, Louise Link, Cori Pratt, VaLois Hounsel, and Verna Mitchell.**

Tobi Bray, Nominating Committee Chair
214-906-2545 (c), tobibray@att.net



Member News & Notes

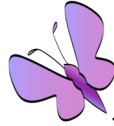
YAY- What more can we say? With more and more people getting the Covid-19 Vaccine, the light at the end of the tunnel is getting closer to becoming a reality. Hopefully, we will continue to practice the safety protocols as we move forward. So, let's look forward to seeing each other in the near future.

HAPPY NEWS....

- March Madness – The Big Dance
- Former RISD student, Drew Timme, represented Gonzaga well as a member of its basketball team in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. He attended Bowie Elementary and JJ Pearce High School. His former teachers are proud of him. Way to go, Drew!
- Congratulations and Thank You to Cori Pratt, Laura Snow, and Kathy Grogan for organizing and facilitating such a wonderful RRSP Drive-Through Fundraiser. Thanks, also, to Lisa and Robert Grinsfelder, Jan Casner, Elaine Simmons, Brenda Duckett, Liz Zsohar and Paula and Rick Rhodes for helping with this event. Thanks to those who donated so generously to this important cause. The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation will benefit from this event.

Wishing ALL a Happy Easter!

Paula Rhodes, Sunshine Chairman



Everything I Needed to Know, I learned from the Easter Bunny

- Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.
- Walk softly and carry a big carrot
- Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
- There's no such thing as too much candy.
- All work and no play can make you a basket case.
- Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
- Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
- Some body parts should be floppy.
- Keep your paws off other people's jellybeans.
- The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
- An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare.
- To show your true colors you have to come out of your shell.
- The best things in life are still sweet and gooey!

-Author Unknown-



Membership

We've moved our clocks ahead. The trees and shrubs that survived winter in Texas are blooming, AND it's time to renew our memberships for the 2021-2022 year. Our united voice is vital in securing our benefits and interests. Please add your voice today by filling out the form at the end of the newsletter and returning it with your check. If you need a printed copy, I will be happy to send it to you with an addressed envelope for its return. Just call me (972-231-8680) or email (Dorcas.helms@tx.rr.com).

Dorcas Helms
1st V-P Membership



RRSP/TRTF Fundraiser Was a Success!

On March 19, the St. Patrick's CHOCOLATE or Not Drive-Through Fundraiser brought in over \$2100 for the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation! Thanks to all who participated in this worthy event and to those who donated food and other items to the Network collection.

Richardson Retired School Personnel (RRSP) Established in 1979

An Affiliate of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2021-2022

(Deadline: June 15, 2021 for yearbook inclusion)

PLEASE: PRINT AND USE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON.

Complete Part I with the contact information. **If you are retired and receiving a TRS (Teacher Retirement System) or other teacher annuity, also complete Part II (TRS Retiree Members).** If you are not a retiree, complete Part III (Associate Members) instead. **Complete Part I; then complete either Part II OR Part III, NOT both.**

1. Contact Information (Everyone will complete this section. Please highlight any changes made.)

NAME _____
(Ms., Mrs., Mr., or Dr.) First Name Middle Name/Initial Last Name

ADDRESS _____
Number and Street or PO Box Number Apt. # City State Zip 9-digit

PHONE NUMBER _____ (for directory unless "unlisted" indicated)

EMAIL ADDRESS (Print please) _____

Send my RRSP newsletter by (Select one): ☐ EMAIL ☐ POSTAL SERVICE ☐ I don't need a newsletter

Contact for meeting reminders (Select one)? ☐ EMAIL ☐ PHONE CALL

BIRTHDAY (Month/Date) _____ Year Retired _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

2. TRS Retiree Members (Retirees receiving a TRS annuity); most will select the second option!!

Select ONLY ONE of the following three categories: Annual Cost for 2021-2022:

☐ New Member in 2021-2022 of TRTA and RRSP \$45.00 (**total for both**) _____

☐ Renewing (within 3 years) Member of TRTA and RRSP \$45.00 (**total for both**) _____

☐ RRSP dues only; 2021-2022 (**TRTA dues must be already paid***) \$10.00 (RRSP) _____

* TRTA Life Members, or paid TRTA directly e.g. by check, monthly payroll deduction, or monthly bank draft

If you want your yearbook/directory mailed, please add: \$ 2.00 _____

RETIREE TOTAL DUE _____

3. Associate Members (Not receiving an annuity; still working for the schools/friend/spouse of a retiree)

Select ONLY ONE of the following three categories: Annual Cost for 2021-2022

☐ New Associate Member of TRTA and RRSP \$40.00 (**total for both**) _____

☐ Renewing Associate Member of TRTA and RRSP \$40.00 (**total for both**) _____

☐ RRSP dues only; 2021-2022 (**TRTA dues must be already paid****) \$5.00 (RRSP) _____

** TRTA dues already paid by check or monthly bank draft (draft instructions have already been submitted)

If you want your yearbook/directory mailed, please add: \$ 2.00 _____

ASSOCIATE TOTAL DUE _____

Make Check Payable to TRTA/Richardson Retired School Personnel or to TRTA/RRSP for the total amount from Part II or Part III. Please mail check and form to:

Elaine Simmons
8604 Gladwood Lane
Dallas, TX 75243-6408