Klein Association of Retired Employees



KARE NEWSLETTER for April 2021 kleinkaremembers@gmail.com

Save the Date!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STARTED MARCH 1! See the Membership Form at the end of the Newsletter.

TRTA's Day at the Capitol event will be held virtually April 6 through 8, 2021.

Zoom to the Capitol Week is next week. Thank you for all of the letters you have written for the Red Letter Campaign. Hopefully, you have completed the registration process for the TRTA Zoom events. The state TRTA events are for those who registered and you should receive an email with how to access them by Monday.

Separate and apart from the state events District 4 has scheduled a series of cluster calls to allow our Senators and Representatives from the Greater Houston area to meet and hear from our legislators. All District 4 legislative calls can be accessed by using the Zoom login link below. Look further down the email and see our schedule of meetings. We have had 26 legislators reply back to our requests so far. If we add any others there will be one last updated announcement of meetings on Monday, April 5.

Here's what we are hoping for:

- A crowd of members attending each of the calls
- Members wearing red our signature color if we were visiting the Capitol in person!
- A rousing welcome Smiles, Waving, and a Big Show of Appreciation for each of our legislators!
- We will allow each legislator a chance to address our members. Somewhere along the way we will ask for their support of bills already filed that would result in a COLA a permanent Cost of Living Adjustment for our retirees receiving an annuity from TRS.

Hope to see all of you on one or more of the calls on our schedule. Your participation will make a difference. A COLA is possible and is needed. Now is the time!!!

Topic: TRTA Legislative Contact Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2817972749?pwd=ZGpMOE5IKzZiNXVkVWZPeEdiZUE1UT09

Meeting ID: 281 797 2749 Passcode: 597402

Dial by your location +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 281 797 2749 Passcode: 597402

Note: A different Zoom Login Link for **Senator Brandon Creighton** (shared call with Districts 5 and 6): I could not get this to insert in a readable form. LC



Keeping Up with KARE

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in KARE. This newsletter is posted on our webpages with TRTA. Our KARE webpage can be found on the TRTA website at: <u>https://localunits.org/klein/</u> Our KARE Facebook page can be found by searching for KARE – Klein Association of Retired Employees. Be sure to Like us.

Keeping Up with TRTA

TRTF "Donate Your Date" Fundraiser Launches

March 22, 2021, the Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) launched its firstever "Donate Your Date" fundraising campaign! As our public education retirees continue to deal with the ramifications of COVID-19, the need for financial assistance continues to grow. This also marks the first year in TRTA's new twoyear cycle that there will not be an annual convention. In years past, TRTF hosted a meal event to raise funds for its many charitable programs during the convention. The TRTF Board of Trustees asked themselves, "How do we support retirees in need and fund our scholarships and grants for active teachers while ensuring the health and safety of TRTA members?" TRTA Executive Director Tim Lee had the perfect solution: "DONATE YOUR DATE!"

What Does "Donate Your Date" Mean? <u>Tim Lee explains in this helpful video</u>! The idea is to donate an amount of money based on a date that is meaningful to you! For example: Is your wedding anniversary on February 14? Consider donating \$2.14, \$21.40, or \$214! Maybe someone you love received the great news they beat cancer on June 8, 2014 and you'd like to honor them by giving \$68.14!

Any amount will be a tremendous help to TRTF as we strive to fund our important programs, like "A Helping Hand," the Disaster Relief Fund, the TRTF Tutor Program, and more!

How to Donate Your Date!

Make a donation online! Visit <u>www.trtf.org/donateyourdate</u>. Prefer snail mail? <u>Download the special donation form</u> and mail to TRTF, Attn: Donate Your Date, 313 E. 12th Street, Suite 220, Austin, TX 78701.

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 Hrncir Past President - Dale Robinson		
	1st Vice President (Membership) - Sandy Smith		
	2nd Vice President - (Programs) - Susan Alter		
	3rd Vice President (Trips) - Kathy Bell		
	Secretary - Mary Young Treasurer - Linda Carroll		
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 16:	No meeting		
January 20:	KARE Zoom Meeting – Nomination of Officers		
	Speaker: Jennifer Salazar from the Better Business Bureau.		
January 30:	Meet You at the Wunderlich Farm Market Day		
February 17:	KARE Zoom Meeting		
March 17:	KARE Zoom Meeting: Dr. Nancy Radcliffe and Bob		
	Anderson.		
	Voting on amendment to By-Laws		
April 6-8:	TRTA's Day at the Capitol held Virtually.		
April 21:	KARE Meeting – Dr. Jim Cain and election of officers		
May 19:	KARE Meeting author Kathryn Lane and installation of officers		

Keep an eye on the events schedule each month for any changes or additions.

KARE Klein Association of Retired Employees 21 April 2021 Online zoom meeting agenda

- 1. Call to order, welcome Bob Hrncir, President
- 2. Announcements, milestones [birthdays, anniversaries, new grandkids, etc.]
- 3. Introduction of guest speaker by Susan Alter Second Vice President in charge of programs.
- 4. Speaker: Dr. Jim Cain
- 5. Minutes Mary Young
- 6. Treasurer's Report Linda Carroll
- 7. Standing Committee Reports:

1st Vice President – Membership – Sandy Smith 2nd Vice President -- Programs – Susan Alter 3rd Vice President – Trips and Foundation News – Kathy Bell Legislative – Glen Peterson Health Care – Dora Williams Community Volunteer Services: Linda Carroll Information and Protective Services – Dagmar Kidd Book Club – Suzanne Bradley Historian – Wayland Kidd Technology & Website – Jane McKetta Retirement Education – Nadine Krebs Hospitality – Eva Grigg Children's Book Project – Janet Flynn Scholarship Committee – Glen Peterson

- 8. New Business: Election of Officers
- 9. Adjournment

KARE Meeting Minutes March 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Bob Hrncir, President

Milestones, Announcements: Bob Anderson, Executive Director of Human Resources for Klein ISD was introduced.

Susan Alter introduced the guest speakers: Nancy Radcliffe and Bob Anderson. Their topic was *How Not to Panic During the Pandemic--Maintaining Professional Development Through COVID.*

Minutes were read by Mary Young. The motion to amend the bylaws made in the February meeting will be considered under New Business. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report from Linda Carroll: March 8 the balance was \$6,946.30. She had deposited \$1,000 from District 4; \$100 from scholarship donations; and \$200 for TRTA dues.

Sandy Smith reported that 20 members had renewed their KARE dues. TRTA dues are \$35 and KARE dues are \$10. Please renew your membership and complete the new membership form. She is looking for ideas to get retirement information to prospective retirees. Suggestions are welcome.

Programs: Susan Alter: There was no speaker in February due to the inclement weather. Dr. Cain will be speaking in the April meeting and Kathryn Lane, a published author living in The Woodlands will speak in May. <u>Waking up in Medellin</u> is one of her novels.

No legislative report.

Trips/Foundation: Kathy Bell: The KARE trip March 26 to the Hodge Podge Lodge was cancelled due to COVID. There will be no trips until the fall starting in September.

If you are interested in tutoring through the Foundation, check TRTF website for information. It is free for students. She encouraged everyone to read through the new packet from The Voice, and to write your state representative encouraging

them to Support Texas Education Retirees for a COLA raise as there hasn't been a cost-of-living increase for many years.

Health Care and Sunshine Committee: Dora Williams: This is Brain Injury Awareness month. She warned of brain injuries, no matter how seemingly small. She encouraged everyone to sign up and get a COVID vaccine and increase the herd immunity. Again, if you know of someone who might need a ray of sunshine from KARE, let Dora know.

Community Volunteer Services: Linda Carroll submitted 5278 hours yearly hours that were submitted from 60 members. Please keep count of your volunteer hours.

Information and Public Services: See the March Newsletter

Book Club: Suzanne Bradley volunteered to chair this group. Book suggestions are welcome for the fall.

Historian: See the March Newsletter

Technology and Website: Jane McKetta. To find KARE's web page go to TRTA; click on local units; click on Klein; click on the newsletter button.

Retirement Education: Nadine Krebs. March 27 TRTA will sponsor a virtual seminar for those considering retirement. She will send information to Klein ISD to be distributed to notify all teachers of the TRTA retirement meeting.

Hospitality: no report

Children's Book Project: Janet Flynn. Keep collecting books. If you have too many to carry, contact Janet at jkmf@postpro.net and she will pick them up.

Scholarship Committee: no report

New Business: Dale Robinson moved to amend the bylaws for one time only so that current KARE officers can serve a 3 year term ending 2021-2022. Motion was seconded by Nadine Krebs. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Young, Secretary

Financial Report by Linda Carroll, Treasurer		
Beginning Balance		\$ 5,646.30
Incentive Check from District 4	\$1,000	
scholarship donations	\$100	
KARE and TRTA Dues	\$200	
March Balance		\$ 6,946.30.

Membership by Sandy Smith:

We started our membership drive for renewals and new memberships on March 1. I know it has been a difficult year in so many ways for everyone. I would like to thank each and every one of you for renewing/joining our 20-21 membership year and for joining our Zoom meetings. We are hoping, with vaccinations rolling out quickly, that we will be able to resume face to face meetings this year. I know that we are all anxious to see each other, interact, make new friends and finally be able to socialize with our colleagues and friends.

This is also a legislative year and Texas needs to continue to hear the voices of public education and retirees. The schools have done an amazing job of educating our kids in the most difficult of situations. Teachers and staff have gone over and beyond anything they have had to do before. Two years ago, we made great strides in funding for education and for support of retired education employees. We need to continue to keep this in front of our legislators. Right now, one of the big issues is getting a cost of living increase for retirees. As you all know, that has not happened in a very long time. Your membership helps keep this issue front and center.

Beyond that and just as important, is keeping in touch with friends and colleagues. KARE has so many fun opportunities to do that. We have fun trips, great speakers, social events, and just fun gatherings. If you are already a member, please renew for 21-22 so that we can continue to make a difference. If you know of any retirees or soon to be retirees, please invite them to join us. There is a membership form at the end of this newsletter that you can share. If they have any questions, they can email me at <u>kleinkaremembers@gmail.com</u>. I look forward to literally seeing everyone soon.

KARE membership is still \$10 and membership for TRTA is \$35 for a total of \$45. You must be a member of both. However, if you have automatic renewal for TRTA from your annuity, you need only to pay \$!0 for KARE. Please mail your membership form (at the end of the newsletter) and dues to: Linda Carroll 18206 Navajo Trail Spring, TX 77388-9007

A Note from Linda: Dues received are entered by midnight on the fifteenth (15th) of each month. To be counted as renewing in April, I must have your check by the fifteenth. There are some slight changes to the membership form this year. Even if you consider all your information to be the same, it is very helpful to those of us doing the paperwork for you to send a completed form with your check, even if you are only sending \$10 to renew your KARE membership.

Programs/Second Vice President – Susan Alter For April 21, our speaker will be Dr. Jim Cain.

Trips/Third Vice President – Kathy Bell

Trips have been canceled until the fall, but we are interested in what you would like to do when we begin traveling again. If you have any trip ideas, send those to <u>KleinKAREmembers@gmail.com</u> or <u>kbell1718@sbcglobal.net</u>

Staying in Touch

The TRTA App is Here, Download it Today!

With in-person functions cancelled through the end of the year, it is more important than ever to connect with each other in the digital world. Now, there's an app for that! TRTA's new mobile app can be used year-round and seamlessly interfaces with current TRTA technologies and databases.

Download the TRTA app by going to your device's app store and searching for "TRTA" or using the links below. The app is available for both Android and Apple users and for both cellular phones and tablets *but does not have an interface for computers at this time*.

- iOS Download Link
- <u>Android Download Link</u>
- Download Instructions
- Full User Guide

App Features and Highlights

With one app, you will be able to stay connected with your peers and fellow retirees every day!

- Push Notifications: Never miss a beat by receiving push notifications (similar to text messages) directly to your phone.
- Forums: Discuss TRTA-related or lifestyle topics and stay connected with fellow retirees in this increasingly disconnected time
- Resources: Access the library to download membership forms and documents that every member needs
- News Feed: Read and comment on the most current *Inside Line* and learn about legislation that might affect you.
- Directory: Find other app users you can network with, regardless of your geographic location
- Events: Explore the calendar of upcoming (virtual) TRTA events
- Contests: Participate in contests and prize drawings; get started today to increase your chances of winning!

FOUNDATION NEWS:

TRTF is excited to announce the TRTF Tutor Program powered by Knack, an online service that will match retired Texas public-school teachers with students and their families, as well as school districts that need tutoring services and educational support.

This wonderful new program provides TRTA members and Texas retired teachers with an avenue to give back to their communities, while also giving them an opportunity to earn extra income - the pay is substantial. In addition, the TRTF Tutor Program provides the critical help many of our students and practicing educators need to navigate the challenges of virtual learning. We believe the greatest teachers are those in our public-school classrooms as well as those who served in our schools throughout their career! Students will receive not only excellent educational support but will engage on a multi-generational level that improves interpersonal skills when they receive tutoring services from a Texas retired teacher.

GO TO TRTF.ORG TODAY TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TUTOR PROGRAM! At trta.org you can view the requirements for the tutor program and register to be a paid tutor.

Historian Report by Wayland Kidd

To view the K.A.R.E. Scrapbook click: <u>Original Entire Scrapbook</u> <u>https://tinyurl.com/kareshare</u>

To offer an insight or personal story, submit to: **Editable Members' Pages** <u>https://tinyurl.com/kareshare2</u>

To submit ideas, send your thoughts in an email: **kareshare.xix@gmail.com**

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT – Dagmar Kidd 10 Ways to Save More Money on Amazon

Do's and don'ts for best deals, prices and savings on shipping costs by Lisa Lee Freeman, <u>AARP</u>, January 4, 2021

Amazon Prime can save you money, but if all you want is free shipping, it may not be worth the annual fee. If you're an Amazon Prime member, you're one of about 142 million Americans who belong to the program, according to the research firm eMarketer. That's more than half the adult population!

It's no wonder. Prime members get shipping that's quick and free, special discounts and lots of other perks, including free streaming video and music services. Whether or not you're a Prime member, though, it's easy to overspend at the online superstore. Here are do's and don'ts to help stretch your Amazon dollars to the max.

1. Don't pay the first price you see.

Instead, scroll down below the price on the far right side of the product page to check for "Other Sellers on Amazon." If you find a better deal, check seller and product reviews, shipping rates and return policies to avoid fees and other gotchas. Keep in mind that some lower-cost options may not qualify for fast, free delivery but still will come out cheaper in the end.

2. Don't always buy new.

When you scroll down to view other sellers, you may find used items through Amazon's Warehouse and Renewed programs, both of which offer heavily discounted open-box deals. 3. Do check out Amazon Handmade.

Similar to Etsy, it's a great source of handcrafted and personalized presents, and it's easy to find items for less than \$25. Also check Amazon Launchpad, which is loaded with nicely priced, innovative products, like the Cube Key Finder Smart Tracker, useful for locating dogs, kids and, of course, keys.

4. Do browse discount sections.

The Outlet section is updated daily with clearance items in a range of categories. The Under \$10 section is another place to bargain-surf.

5. Do get colorful.

Whatever you're buying, check the prices of different color options. You could save a bundle — not just on clothes but on earphones, yoga mats and more. Last fall, for example, I found a single model of women's running shoes in 21 different color combos that ranged from \$109.95 to \$228.62!

6. Don't rush to buy a protection plan.

Like other retailers, Amazon offers extended warranties, but they usually aren't worth it, says Consumer Reports reporter Octavio Blanco. Also, you may already have a free extended warranty through the credit card you use for the purchase, Blanco says.

7. Do get credit for your castoffs.

The company's trade-in program makes it easy to get Amazon gift cards for your old electronics, especially Amazon devices, such as Kindle e-readers and Echo smart speakers. On eligible trade-ins, you can also get discounts on certain new Amazon devices.

8. Don't forget coupons.

On Amazon search for "Amazon coupons" if you don't see a link near the search box. Some of those coupons can save you \$20 or more. Amazon also attaches coupons to certain items on product pages; click on the box to get the deal.

9. Do look at reward cards.

Prime members can get 5 percent cash back at the site and at Whole Foods, plus a sign-up bonus, with the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Signature card. Nonmembers can get 3 percent cash back with the Amazon Rewards Visa Signature card.

10. Do pay for Prime — maybe.

To me, the video service included with Prime is enough to make its \$119 annual fee worth it. And that's only one of its many perks. But if all you want is free shipping, you can get that by spending just \$25 on eligible items per order.

Lisa Lee Freeman, a consumer and shopping expert, was founder and editor in chief of ShopSmart magazine from Consumer Reports.

KARE's Children's Book Project

We are hard at work for 2021. If you have boxes of books you would like to donate, please e-mail Janet Flynn at <u>jkmf@postpro.net</u> and you will be contacted to choose a pick-up time.

Healthy Living – Dora Williams

Healthy Living salutes the Kreinhop Cruisers II team for walking 1762 miles and completing their second round of Walking Across Texas. Team members are Dagmar Kidd, Wayland Kidd, Kathy Bell, Glen Peterson, Deborah Hays, Annet Riley, Ruth Stevens, and Dora Williams.

Community Volunteer Services – Linda Carroll Interim Chair Remember that you may count any hours they would have had to pay someone for.

Technology by Jane McKetta

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an order from TRTA, <u>all KARE meetings</u> <u>through June will be held online via Zoom.</u> 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. If you do not receive an email by the day before, please email Jane McKetta at <u>jmcketta@sbcglobal.net</u>.

TRTF Offer Disaster Relief Assistance to TRS Retirees

The Texas Retired Teachers Foundation (TRTF) wants members of the Texas Retired Teachers Association (TRTA) to know that help is now available in the form of grants for retirees who were affected by winter storm Uri in February.

The TRTF Board of Trustees has determined that each of the TRTA's twenty districts will receive 30 Disaster Relief grants in the amount of \$250 each to assist retired public-school employees who have been negatively affected by the storm. We know that hundreds, if not thousands, of our members and TRS retirees suffered record-breaking low temperatures without

electricity, heat, and running water during the storm. Many homes were destroyed due to flooding from broken pipes, resulting in thousands of dollars in damage. Many TRS retirees do not have substantial savings to help them recover from such unpredictable disasters.

Thanks to the generous donations from thousands of TRTA members, as well as the remarkable support from a few of our dedicated private donors and supporters, TRTF will be able to help at least 600 retirees!

If your needs exceed the amount offered by the short-term grants, another option may be available for you. Please send an email to <u>help@trtf.org</u> to request a Disaster Relief Fund Long-Term grant application. A limited amount of long-term grants in the amount of \$1,000 are available at this time.

How to Apply

To request an application for assistance, please send an email to <u>help@trtf.org</u>. A brief application form will then be emailed back to you. Grants will be given on a first come, first served basis, until funds are depleted.

Let us know if you know of a retiree who needs help! Many may have limited access to communications services, and you may be a lifeline between TRTF and someone in need. Contact us at 1.800.880.1650 (ask for Sarah) or send an email to <u>help@trtf.org</u>. Is there something else you would like to see reported in the newsletter.

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 receive an annuity fro	om a teacher retirement syste	em. [] Yes [] No
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Department(s) worked Retired employees from	in m districts other than Klein a	
	n serving on the following co	
Membership	ginanooni	Book Club
Sandra Smith C	Chair	Suzanne Bradley Chair
Programs		Children's Books
Susan Alter Ch	air	Janet Flynn Chair
KARE Trips		Retirement Education
Kathy Bell Cha	ur	Nadine Krebs Chair
TRTA Foundatio		Healthy Living
Kathy Bell Cha	ur	Dora Williams Chair
Legislative		Sunshine
Glen Peterson (Chair	Dora Williams Chair
Hospitality		Technology
Eva Grigg Chai	ir	Jane McKetta Chair
Community Serv		Member Benefits
Linda Carroll I		Chair needed
Historian		Information & Protective Services
Wayland Kidd	Chair	Dagmar Kidd Chair
2	mittee; Chairs Glen Petersor	e
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Return the form and a check	
Linda (Frail Drive, Spring, TX 77388-9007
KARE will take care of sub both: \$45 (KARE \$10; TRT		u are not already in a program that pays them. Dues for