

March 2021

# ECARSE News

Erath County Association of Retired School Employees  
Established February 3, 1961  
Erath County, Texas



Just look at us now - the Zoom pros!

## Time to Renew!

The actual ECARSE/TRTA year is considered to be July 1 - June 30 each year. It is important that we begin collecting dues for the next year during the months of March, April, and May, since we do not meet in the summer months. While we can accept members all year, privileges begin whenever dues are paid.

The membership drive, therefore, began March 1. From then to June 1, we would like to bring in as many members and dues as possible to be able to contend for state and district prize money!



Please send your dues of \$50 to:

Jean Rucker, ECARSE Treasurer  
118 Ben Hogan  
Stephenville, Texas 76401

\*\*\*Make your check payable to "ECARSE." Please include a note with your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.



Numbers matter! Please consider taking this opportunity to add a spouse, children, or anyone interested in education.

**Help us reach 100,000 members! Join today!**

## Meetings & Programs:

**April 6:** Please log in by **1:45**; the meeting will be brief, ending by 2:15. Then we will log off and log in by 2:30 to a special Zoom meeting with Representative Shelby Slawson! Watch your email for the Zoom invitation to join this special "Zoom to the Capitol" event with others from her district. **Wear RED!**

**May 4:** Dr. Kelly Styron agreed to move her TSU update to this meeting.



## March 2 meeting highlights:

Like last month, we were entertained by another former student and Stephenville High School graduate! The Erath County District Attorney, Alan Nash, was our guest speaker.

After catching up a bit, Alan was there to talk about the State of Texas vs. Eddie Ray Routh, a trial in 2015 for the murders of Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield in 2013 at the Rough Creek Lodge shooting range.



Alan chose to focus on Justin Nabers, a RCL worker, whose courage was an outstanding feature of the trial.

After Kyle, Littlefield, and Routh went to the shooting range, another man and his son arrived at the lodge. Upon finding out that Chris Kyle, the veteran Navy sniper whose book was turned into a movie, was also at Rough Creek, the son wanted to meet him. Nabers took them out to the range. Upon arriving close to the tragic scene, Nabers sent the pair back to the lodge to safety and to get help. Nabers stayed with Kyle and Littlefield, at considerable danger to himself, not knowing who else might still be there. He could tell the victims' injuries were likely fatal, but he stayed with them. They did not have to die alone.



We enjoyed Alan's presentation and his perspective on a lesser known part of the case. We appreciated his time to give our program.

-Alan proudly shows a brick from his own Central Elementary School.

## Committee Reports:

### Community Volunteer Services: Mary Waters

Continue keeping your record of volunteer hours for 2021!

### Informative & Protective Services: Kathy Hyde

Watch out for IRS scams! With tax season upon us, we need to watch our personal information even more. Filing early can help to keep scammers from stealing your refund.

### Healthy Living: Laree Bragg

As more and more people are receiving the vaccine, we are getting closer to "herd immunity" and a more normal life. The Erath County Vaccination Center is open and working hard to deliver. You must make an appointment.

### Legislative: Judith Meador



We were very happy to hear that both the House and Senate plan to keep the arrangements to gradually fund our TRS pension and keep it actuarially sound as passed in the last session two years ago! This, in part, means that a cost of living adjustment (COLA) is possible.

\*Hopefully by now you have received your latest issue of **The Voice** and written your letters to our representative and senator. If not, please consider doing it now! This unique opportunity for the legislature to read so many personal stories through this **Red Letter Campaign** will make an impact.

\*Our traditional Rally Day at the Capitol will look different this year. The plans are in **The Voice** (schedule on page 5), so read about the event and watch your email for invitations to join the Zoom sessions. **Wear RED!**

\*Join us for the meeting with Representative Slawson at 2:30 on April 6; watch for our email & the Zoom link.

\*Join us for the meeting with Senator Springer at 10:00 on April 8; watch for our email & the Zoom link.

### Membership: Vicki Cook

We finished the year with 152 members officially. This is three over our goal of last year's number and earned our group \$100 in rewards from the district! See page 1 for new details about membership.



### Retirement Education: Judith Meador

Check online or the TRTA app to find retirement seminar locations, dates, times, & registration. All are virtual.

### Member Benefits: Vickie Walker

Spotlight for April is on the Texas Mobile Imaging discounts for onsite mobile vascular & internal organ ultrasound screenings. For more information call 832-437-6724 or see at <http://www.txmobileimaging.com/services>.



### Scholarships: Kathy Hyde

One of our scholarship recipients, Debonhi Mendoza, was able to join us for a few minutes. She has been substituting in SISD and has taken a long-term sub position in the district. She graduated from Tarleton in December and is continuing her education, working on her Master's degree in Educational Technology, a choice she made while student teaching in the district. Deb offered her thanks for the scholarship she received from ECARSE.

### Technology/Public Relations: Jan Vaughn

Stay informed, especially during this legislative session! *The Voice* (paper, via US mail), *The Inside Line* (email; sign up on the TRTA website), *trta.org* (website), TRTA app (app store), TRTA & ECARSE Facebook pages.

### TRTFoundation: Kathy Hyde

Donate your date! Did you notice *The Voice* article? Donate an amount according to an important date in your life: wedding anniversary February 14 = \$2.14, or \$21.40, or \$214! We can help members in need due to Covid or the snow storm, or other disasters. This money will go to fund disaster relief grants to TRTA members who apply. Each grant will be \$250. This information is in *The Voice* and the email we sent to you with the application.

### Book Project: Darlene Adcock; Silent Auction: Yvonne Jenkins

We are making plans to meet with representatives from Hook & Gilbert to present their book donations.

